

This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

3 3433 00329477 8



FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

88100
CENOX AND
FOUNDATIONS

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASS.,

FOR THE YEAR 1886.



SOMERVILLE, MASS.:
SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT.
1887.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASS.,

FOR THE YEAR 1886.

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY



SOMERVILLE, MASS.:
SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT.
1887.

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
88100
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1891

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, Jan. 26, 1887.

Referred to the committee on printing, to be printed in the annual reports. Sent down for concurrence.

GEO. I. VINCENT, *Clerk pro tem.*

IN COMMON COUNCIL, Jan. 27, 1887.

Concurred in.

DOUGLAS FRAZAR, *Clerk.*

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

To the City Council:

The Trustees of Somerville Public Library, in making this their annual report, first desire to say that their experience of the last year reassures them that the expenditure for the erection of the new library building was wisely made. The community cannot fail to realize the facilities and accommodations which it furnishes; at the same time they confess that their duties have become in a great measure thereby more enjoyable, if not better performed.

The amount expended for all purposes during the year will appear in the City Treasurer's statement appended hereto.

The number of books purchased in 1886, according to the report of the librarian, is 1,012. The whole number of books now in the library is 13,146.

It may be interesting to know the growth and use of the Public Library since its establishment. The following tables gleaned from the annual reports will furnish this information: —

Year.	Number in Library.	Books taken out.
1873	3,907	24,693
1874	4,730	Not reported.
1875	5,301	39,025
1876	5,752	46,800
1877	6,696	57,862
1878	7,441	61,076
1879	7,814	64,022
1880	8,506	67,895
1881	9,035	67,649
1882	9,766	67,673
1883	10,574	70,531
1884	11,197	72,591
1885	12,134	65,450*
1886	13,146	77,610

* In ten months.

For further information, attention is invited to the librarian's report.

Much care has been taken in studying and supplying such departments as were found deficient, and chiefly in the choice of books of a solid and standard character. Books of reference relating to art, scientific subjects, manufactures, trades, and mechanics have been furnished, resulting in a most valuable acquisition to the library. Unusual opportunities are now offered to those who may desire to investigate any special subject in the reference room, which will be found both a pleasant and profitable place of resort.

Not a few purchases have been made in compliance with requests of individuals whose judgment the Trustees have good reason to respect. It has been the policy of the Trustees to encourage the patrons of the library to make known their wishes, and to recommend such works as they may deem desirable to possess. The difficulty in selecting books, especially new publications, arises in a great measure from the difficulty of knowing the merits of an author without a personal perusal. It will be readily seen that a multiplicity of books renders this duty arduous. Any assistance, therefore, that can be rendered by those who have a personal knowledge is most welcome. It is not always safe to rely upon newspaper notices or criticisms, or the commendations of publishers. Nor can it be deemed advisable to rely too much on experiments or mere hearsay.

The aim should always be to provide what may be regarded the "best reading." To accomplish this may be quite feasible, if standard works of known value are only to be selected; but in dealing with the current literature of the day, an immense field must be explored, and hence the task becomes the more onerous.

The Trustees would briefly again invite a further consideration of the question how the Public Library can be made more serviceable and beneficial to the community, especially to the young, who, more than others, are its active patrons. The materials are all here with which to work.

Much might be said in the way of suggestion, as to what course a reader or student should pursue in order that he may make the most advantageous use of books, and in the adoption of some systematic course of reading. We leave the subject, however, for parents and teachers to consider.

Attention is respectfully invited to the condition of the grounds about the library building. It seems sadly out of place that the elegant structure, which has been erected at so much outlay, should not have its surroundings more in consonance with its character. What might have been made an attractive lawn with the adornment of a few flowers, has thus far been permitted to become overgrown with unsightly weeds.

To avoid a continuance of such a condition of things, the Trustees have taken the initiative of preparing the soil, so that in the coming season it may be in readiness for further improvements.

In closing, the Trustees take pleasure in giving their testimony to the fidelity and zeal with which the librarian and her assistants have discharged their duties.

CHAS. S. LINCOLN, *Chairman.*

DEC. 31, 1886.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

The fourteenth year of our library work finds us in a condition to warrant the expenditure of increased appropriations, as larger means of usefulness are constantly presenting themselves. Books of more scientific and solid character are called for and more and more appreciated, while many do not yet know of the treasures contained in our collection, which they have but to ask for in order to receive.

During the past year many choice books have been placed in the reference department, such as

North American Sylva, 2 vols.
Standard Natural History, 6 vols.
Holbein's Portraits.
Ferns of North America, 2 vols.
The Earth and its Inhabitants, 10 vols.
Costumes of the Clans, 2 vols.
Baronial Halls of England.
National Costumes of Germany.

And also for general distribution the most desirable works on the labor question, electricity, science, and the best in books of travel, biography, and fiction.

We are indebted to those of our constant readers who suggest those works that are most useful in their several occupations, and find them generally excellent judges of what is most needed. Who knows so well as the workman himself what tools he can best use; and if we can only supply the needed tools for our young workmen, what monuments of fame may not be wrought by builders here!

Until recently we have had only books of moderate cost in unpretending bindings; now we have accommodation for choicer books, whose illustrations on subjects in which our people are interested many would be glad to see. We have never been able to purchase a set of "Audubon's Birds," nor until this present year any

volumes of colored engravings or books in which the costumes of the past could be shown to those curious to see, or desirous to copy them. Our books, when purchased, go into immediate circulation, and their well-worn condition shows their constant use. *Three* books have been given, and the wonder is that more have not been donated. What more fitting place to bestow a well-read book than the Public Library, where hundreds can have the benefit of it, and the giver have the satisfaction of knowing that a good selection has been made for the reading of others?

I find that in at least one library the gifts have sometimes outnumbered the purchases.

A new registration was commenced in January, 1885, since which time 5,415 names have been entered and cards delivered.

During the year, 77,510 books have been delivered, 8,687 books covered, and 2.000 postal cards sent for books overdue. We have had, including periodicals, 407 volumes bound. These can seldom be bound a second time; 145 books have been worn out and withdrawn, and, where it was possible, replaced.

The use of reference books has nearly doubled; the number recorded last year being 642, and this year 1,200.

The following table shows the percentage of books taken in the various departments: —

Fiction, including juvenile	71
History and travel	9
Essays and science	8
Periodicals and drama	6
Biography	4
Poetry	2

The number of books in the library is 13,146, and at the annual examination none were missing.

HARRIET A. ADAMS, *Librarian.*

DEC. 31, 1886.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF CITY TREASURER.

Cr.

Balance from 1885	$402 60
Appropriation	2,500 00
Transferred from interest acccount	409 73
Dog licenses	1,728 54
Fines	274 69
Catalogues	36 60
City of Boston, discount on water bill	1 20
	$5,353 36

Dr.

Salaries	$1,537 17	
Books	2,325 03	
Printing and stationery	189 32	
Catalogues	128 51	
Binding	139 19	
Newspapers	12 00	
Furniture	157 80	
Gas governor	60 00	
Gas	173 91	
Fuel	171 45	
Water	20 00	
Repairs	209 23	
Labor	180 00	
Expressing	39 60	
Incidentals	60 15	
		$5,353 36

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRA

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASS.,

FOR THE YEAR 1887.



BOSTON:
RAND AVERY COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1888.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASS.,

FOR THE YEAR 1887.



BOSTON:
RAND AVERY COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1888.

77092
1901

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, Jan. 11, 1888.

Referred to the committee on printing, to be printed in the annual reports. Sent down for concurrence.

DOUGLAS FRAZAR, *Clerk pro tem.*

IN COMMON COUNCIL, Jan. 11, 1888.

Concurred in.

CHAS. S. ROBERTSON, *Clerk.*

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

DEC. 31, 1887.

To the City Council:—

The Trustees of the Public Library submit their report for the current year. No events of especial importance have occurred since our last report. There has been no abatement of interest on the part of our citizens in the institution under our charge, as is clearly shown by the librarian's report, which we transmit and request to have printed, as it contains information of importance and value which should be preserved as the record of a successful year.

Work has been commenced upon a new catalogue, the system adopted being that in use by the city of Boston, which is generally admitted to be the best for a library of the character of our own. It will be completed during the first half of next year, and will be found much more convenient than the old ones now in use.

The chief labor of the Trustees during the year has consisted in the selection and purchase of new books, which we have endeavored to perform in a way that shall be useful to our patrons and the permanent good of the library.

The growing interest in all subjects relating to the arts, sciences, and invention, has induced the Trustees to expend quite a proportion of the appropriation to secure books that would be of service to all who are, or may become, interested in these important branches of the public education. Most of these additions have been placed in the reference room, where they can be examined at any time; and we desire to especially call the attention of the public to them as worthy of the attention of all who are interested in these important subjects. We bespeak for the future the same liberality which the City Council has thus far shown towards an institution second in importance to none in our city.

CHAS. S. LINCOLN, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

The library is steadily growing in numbers and value, and, with the continued support of our City Fathers, each succeeding year will show its increasing usefulness.

Few libraries are so entirely provided for by a city government as our own, and as we have no bequests or trust funds to fall back upon, we depend entirely upon the generosity of the city: yet where schools are supported on so liberal a scale, the Public Library is in little danger of falling behind for want of ample support.

Although no supplement has been issued within the past year on account of our intended revision of the catalogue, bulletins, containing lists of our accessions, have been posted every other week in the delivery room, and also printed in our local paper to bring them to the notice of those unable to visit the library. We trust that this has been found useful.

Nothing shows more plainly the use of a library than the wear and tear of the books; and when those of the best class are sent to the bindery for repair, there is more cause of satisfaction in the evidence of their use, than if they had remained unused and uninjured on the shelves.

The committee have on this account duplicated the entire works of Scott, Irving, and Dickens.

The "Child's History of England," with its four duplicates, is as much read as works of fiction; while Higginson's and Barnes's histories of the United States are in constant demand. In biography, Abbott's histories are favorites, the "Life of Napoleon" taking the lead, while "Mary Queen of Scots" is more called for than "Elizabeth." I am not as often asked for "an exciting book" as formerly, as books of travel and adventure, with which we are well supplied, seem to supply that want.

Three hundred and two books have been bound, including peri-

odicals, which were never so much called for before. Many readers have gone through complete sets of these bound periodicals.

To some this seems almost a waste of time; but "Harper's Monthly," for instance, contains perhaps all that a busy person can find time for, with its excellent articles on every subject, as well as its historical and literary record. It is a library in itself.

Continued satisfaction is expressed in the selection of the books; and one reader says, "Your library is a continual surprise to me." We are now supplied with the new edition of "Appleton's Cyclopædia," and "Annuals," and also "Appleton's New American Biography" as far as published.

We have received a donation of fifty books from our former townsman, Mr. Isaac Pitman, and three from Mr. J. S. Hayes.

The library was open 306 days; the largest number of books given out on any one day was 722; the smallest number on any day was 83.

During the year 1,407 new names were registered.

The number of books delivered for home use was 79,062, and for reference, 1,497, making a total of books *used* 80,559. The number of books in the library is 14,095, including government publications just received.

It is with regret that we lose the services of Miss Stevens, who has been connected with the library almost from the beginning; the faithful discharge of whose duties has been appreciated by all, and whose labors have helped greatly in carrying on the numerous duties of the library.

H. A. ADAMS, *Librarian.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF CITY TREASURER.

CR.

Appropriation	$3,500 00
Dog licenses	1,835 46
Fines	271 74
Catalogues	21 75
D. L. Gurnsey, book	5 00
	$5,633 95

DR.

Salaries	$1,590 83	
Books	1,901 34	
Printing and stationery	259 63	
Binding	103 30	
Newspapers	18 00	
Gas	141 35	
Fuel	220 50	
Water	30 00	
Repairs	276 42	
Labor	36 42	
Expressing	23 30	
Incidentals	20 69	
	$4,621 78	
Balance to 1888	1,012 17	
		$5,633 95

CIRCULATION

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASS.,

FOR THE YEAR 1888.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 7707
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
1901



BOSTON:
CASHMAN, KEATING & CO., PRINTERS
1889.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 7707.1
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1901

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

IN BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN, Jan. 23, 1889.

Referred to the committee on printing, to be printed in the annual reports. Sent down for concurrence.

GEORGE I. VINCENT, *Clerk.*

IN COMMON COUNCIL, Jan. 23, 1889.

Concurred in.

CHAS. S. ROBERTSON, *Clerk.*

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

Jan. 1, 1889.

To the City Council.

The Trustees of the Somerville Public Library take pleasure, in submitting their report for the current year, to state that at no time in its history has this institution for general instruction been so extensively patronized, and, we believe, its usefulness so clearly demonstrated.

The report of the Librarian is herewith transmitted, which contains all necessary information in regard to the daily workings of the library, and its present condition. We would respectfully request that the same be published with the annual reports.

The Trustees do not consider it necessary to make an extended report, as there is no institution in the city with which the public are more familiar than the Public Library.

We have been guided in the performance of the duty intrusted to us, by the idea of making the library popular in its best sense; dividing as judiciously as possible, the money available for new books, so that all classes of readers may be stimulated and improved by the best in every department of literature.

The new catalogue has been printed the present year, and is a great convenience to the many who have occasion to consult it.

In conclusion, we ask with confidence for such generous support from the City Government, as we have uniformly received in the past.

CHAS. S. LINCOLN,
GEO. A. BRUCE,
SANFORD HANSCOM,
WM. H. BRINE,
J. HENRY FLITNER,
CHRISTOPHER E. RYMES,
WM. E. WELD,
JAMES. E. WHITAKER,
CHAS. G. POPE,
} *Trustees.*

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library.

GENTLEMEN, — In submitting my sixteenth annual report of the condition of the library, I can only state, with more emphasis than ever before, the increased number of books asked for, of books read, and of books of reference used. It is pleasant to be able to state that nearly all of the books inquired for during the past year were immediately procured by the committee, who are always glad to know the wants of our readers.

LIBRARY WORK.

This has been a busy year. The catalogue has been completed, and has been in use six months. 1,738 new books have been entered and put in circulation, a card catalogue is well under way, and the shelves are rapidly filling up. We now need the whole of our building for our own use, as there is no more room for the new reference books until some changes are made, and all public documents placed in the upper room. 145 books have been worn out and discarded, and 10,951 covered and repaired. These were principally fiction, as we are trying the experiment of putting into circulation many new books without the paper covers, and find they are generally well used. The delivery of books from the counter is but one part of our numerous duties. The constant overlooking of every book when returned, the replacing of soiled and torn covers, renumbering and repairing of carelessly-handled books, occupy a large share of our time. This has been cheerfully and faithfully performed by the assistants, to whom much credit is due for the excellent condition of the books.

270 books have been bound, including periodicals. One new magazine, "The Historical and Genealogical Register," and one children's paper, "The Youth's Companion," have been added this year.

One ancient and valuable book has been given by Rev. Charles Smith, and one by the author, E. S. Brooks. The "Somerville Citizen" has also been contributed, and we are thankful for continued favors from "Somerville Journal" and "Somerville Sentinel."

ADDITIONS.

Among the books added to our reference library are "History of Ancient Sculpture," "Palestine Illustrated," Turner's "Liber Fluviorum," "English and Greek Lexicon," "Graphic Record," Lacroix's "Eighteenth Century" in France, "England and Wales," illustrated, in four volumes, "Seats and Castles of Scotland," and others. While in the circulating department an unusually large number of excellent books have been added; some of which are "Europe in Storm and Calm," "Ancient Rome in the Light of Recent Discovery," "American Literature," in ten volumes, McCulloch's "Men and Measures," "Face to Face with the Mexicans," Long's "Republican Party," Sheridan's "Personal Memoirs," "Capitals of Spanish America," "Ancient Persia," "Three Cruises of the Coast-Survey Steamer Blake," "Donnelly's Cryptogram," with a large collection of juvenile books, and the most desirable works of fiction.

CIRCULATION.

The library has been open, for the delivery of books, 305 days, and 81,844 books have been delivered. Of these, 80,697 were for "home use," and 1,147 were used here for reference.

The busiest week of the year ended with March 24, in which time 2,011 were delivered for home use. The largest number on any one day was 708 (March 24), and the smallest (July 31) was 100.

This year three books were carelessly destroyed, and two others accidently spoiled, but all were paid for and replaced.

Two thousand notices have been written and sent out for books overdue, and three were found to be missing from the shelves at the annual examination.

REGISTRATION.

On the 1st of January, 1885, a new registration was commenced; since which time, 8,369 names have been entered and cards supplied. The number in use is constantly changing, some preferring to take out books only in summer, but by far the greater part taking books regularly through the winter months. This year 1,356 names were added.

Our reading-room is generally well filled, and, with a few exceptions, quiet. We have allowed all to avail themselves of its privileges without regard to age; but sometimes are obliged to exclude those who come merely for amusement or talk, and who take the places of people who wish for a quiet room for reading or study. Our reference books are used freely, and we find it difficult to be able to state how many are used in the reference room of which no account can be kept.

An immense amount of reading is now done by some of the youngest readers, — I mean by those under the age of sixteen. These we are always ready to attend to and assist. Cannot more of our teachers interest them in some particular direction, and, now that the taste for reading has been formed, give them subjects to look up, and encourage them to report to them such facts as they have mastered, for the only test whether a book has been read or not is the ability to tell what it contains? It is true that the parents are the ones who should attend to all this; but they are too often only pleased that the time should be so taken up, and find it too much trouble to investigate, or are not competent to decide.

Many teachers now suggest books to their pupils; but I cannot but think that a great deal more might be done in this direction by teachers of the lower grades of the Grammar Schools.

We have the best books of recent travel, and the newest thoughts of great thinkers, as well as the records of the past lives of the great and good of every land in our valuable library,

and it only remains for the reader to take, without money and without price, whatever will best satisfy his wants.

Looking back at the small beginning of the library (less than three thousand books), and comparing it with its present number (15,883), and the delivery of 81,844 in one year, it is plain to see the great success of its establishment.

HARRIET A. ADAMS, *Librarian.*

SOMERVILLE, Jan. 1, 1889.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF CITY TREASURER.

CR.

Balance from 1887	$1,012 17
Appropriation	3,000 00
Dog licenses	2,388 30
Fines	283 57
Catalogues	46 15
Expended in excess of appropriation	12 94
	$6,743 13

DR.

Salaries	$1,608 12	
Books	3,055 06	
Printing and stationery	234 60	
Binding	108 53	
Newspapers	12 00	
Gas	173 29	
Fuel	203 45	
Water	29 00	
Repairs	274 32	
Labor	11 75	
Expressing	46 95	
Incidentals	37 31	
Catalogues	847 50	
Insurance	101 25	
		$6,743 13

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASS.,

FOR THE YEAR 1889.

P 77075
1901



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT.
1890.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASS.,

FOR THE YEAR 1889.



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT,
1890.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 77075
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1901

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, Feb. 12, 1890.

Referred to the committee on printing, to be printed in the annual reports
Sent down for concurrence.

GEORGE I. VINCENT, *Clerk.*

IN COMMON COUNCIL, Feb. 18, 1890.

Concurred in.

CHAS. S. ROBERTSON, *Clerk.*

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

To the City Council of Somerville

In presenting their annual report, the trustees do not hesitate to express no small degree of pride in the prosperous condition of the Public Library. By this we mean that the immediate custodians have been constant and faithful in the discharge of their duties, and assiduous in their attention to the wants of the public; the actual demand for reading matter has largely increased; the purchase of books has been made with careful discrimination; improved conveniences made, and the general usefulness of the institution as a whole, strengthened.

It is perhaps needless to say, that the appropriation for the last year has been entirely expended in providing the ordinary wants of a library in our fast growing city. Indeed, the trustees were obliged to resist the purchase of many books of value and importance from the want of funds. And it seems to them, that the annual appropriations must be enlarged rather than lessened, or the public must otherwise forego many of the most valuable of the new publications, voluminous as they are.

The librarian in her report has given many important statistics, which render it unnecessary to go into any details here, and her report is respectfully submitted herewith, for further information than is here given.

CHAS. S. LINCOLN,
Chairman.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:

GENTLEMEN, — In accordance with the regulations of the library, my seventeenth annual report is herewith respectfully submitted.

ACCESSIONS.

We have now in the library 17,045 volumes. Of this number, 1162 have been added during the past year. Three new magazines have been placed in the reading room. "Political Science Quarterly," "New England Magazine," and "Chautauquan," making with this addition fifty periodicals, magazines, and reviews. Twelve books have been given by a friend of the library, and the "Somerville Journal," and "Somerville Citizen" have each presented us with a file of their papers from the beginning.

For our reference room some valuable books have been purchased. Each year a few books are added, and thus, slowly, without any special appropriation, it is becoming more and more useful. In the department of "Natural History" several illustrated works have been entered, such as "Birds of Europe," "Nests and Eggs of British Birds," "Parrots in Captivity," "British Fishes," also the "Indian Tribes of North America," "Dictionary of Gardening," "Cyclopedia of Music and Musicians," "Cyclopedia of Painters and Paintings," and a full set of "Harper's Weekly," bound in thirty-one volumes.

There has also been an attempt made to collect a complete history of the "Massachusetts Regiments." These are becoming valuable and are already difficult to obtain. Our list is, however, nearly complete; only two are wanting.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The grounds have received unusual care this year, and have well repaid the attention. The shelving of the round room, in the second story, has been completed, and government documents placed there.

Our small room can now be used for patent office reports, and official gazettes, which are fast accumulating.

Space is thus obtained in the lower room, where the shelves are gradually filling up.

CIRCULATION.

The circulation for 305 library days has been 88,381. Of this number, 87,581 were for home use and 800 for reference in the building. The busiest week was in March, when 2,108 were given out. The largest on any day was 780.

We have had 332 books bound, a larger number than ever before. Many of these were juvenile books, which, being not strongly bound at first, could not stand the constant wear. Some of our best books soon show loose leaves; and it is one of the things insisted upon, that every book as it comes in shall be examined, as ill-usage in this way is soon discovered. A large number have been withdrawn, completely worn out.

The work in this department has gone on smoothly and harmoniously, and on an average 1200 books a month have been covered. This does not include books of history, biography, essays, or books of travel, which circulate without the paper covers.

We lose with regret the services of Miss Hopkins, on account of ill-health. She has been with us five years.

REGISTRATION.

One thousand four hundred and thirty new names have been registered this year, which is rather more than usual; and indeed in every department the work gradually grows more extensive, as it should in a growing library. People are not content now to read what some favorite author says on a particular subject, but ask for all that we have on both sides of the subject, and take the conflicting materials away with them to form in their own minds an unprejudiced opinion.

This is one of the best uses of a public library, which knows no sect in religion or politics, but grants a fair chance to every reliable author fully to speak his own mind. All the schools are now supplied with our catalogues, and we always welcome the suggestions of the teachers with regard to the purchase of such books as they may find useful in their work.

We have not had as many applications from this source as usual. This may be owing to the fact that their wants had been in part anticipated by us.

Works on electricity and photography have been in demand, also works on mechanical drawing and engraving. A man going "West" is anxious to read about "Colorado"; another wants all we have about "Florida."

"Can you give me something about the 'Game Laws'?" says one, while another wishes to know about "Sheep farming."

"Where can I read about Halloween?" inquires one: or "I would like a book about Arbor Day," or "Can you find me any description of our National Park?" Then the history of the "Great Fire of Chicago" is wanted, or the "Commerce of England" is to be looked up, or the oldest account of "Yucatan."

"I want to know about the 'Tides,'" says a school girl; another wanted to read about "Day and Night." The essay, "Each and All," was looked for, which proved to be a *poem*.

The "Roads of Middlesex County" was wanted by a bicyclist. "We are intending to build in the spring," says another, "and wish to see the best books on the subject."

One little girl wanted to read about "Sarah." (Sarah Crewe was what she wanted.) Another said she was writing a composition, and wanted a book about "praise." "Find something humorous for my sick wife, if you please; I want to see her smile," said one of our readers recently.

Bright, cheerful books, like cheerful people, are always welcome. At our Library Conference at St. Louis, Mr. Cutter, of the Boston Athenæum Library, said: "There are three causes for the rejection of a book—inaccuracy in science, evil intent, and *dullness*. For the book which will mislead the reader there is an antidote in the book written on the other side, but for the book that will send one to sleep there is no remedy." It is always a pleasure to find for any one the desired book or the important essay, and we are always disappointed if the search proves unsuccessful; but in a small library like ours there is never more than enough material to supply the first comers for particular subjects under discussion at the various reading clubs and associations of the city.

HARRIET A. ADAMS, *Librarian*.

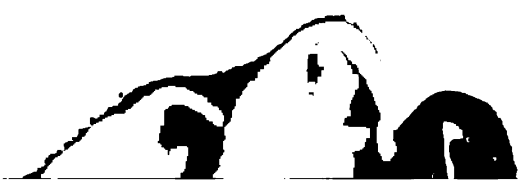
FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF CITY TREASURER.

Cr.

Appropriation		$3,000 00
Dog-licenses		2,382 90
Fines		293 76
Catalogues		44 05
Books		15 50
Expended in excess of appropriation		415 45
		$6,151 66

Dr.

Salaries	$1,874 88	
Books	2,520 81	
Printing and stationery	406 67	
Binding	146 95	
Newspapers	12 00	
Gas	182 01	
Fuel	233 05	
Water	29 00	
Repairs	382 83	
Labor	131 15	
Expressing	41 15	
Incidentals	48 66	
Insurance	142 50	
		$6,151 66



EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASS.,

FOR THE YEAR 1890.

PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 88998
1891



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT,
1891.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASS.,

FOR THE YEAR 1890.



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT,
1891.

PUBLIC LIBRARY
88098
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
1911

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, January 28, 1891.

Referred to the committee on printing, to be printed in the annual reports. Sent down for concurrence.

GEORGE I. VINCENT, *Clerk.*

IN COMMON COUNCIL, January 28, 1891.

Concurred in.

WILLIAM P. MITCHELL, *Clerk pro tem*



CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

To the City of Somerville: —

Nothing unusual has occurred in the management and care of the Public Library during the year now closing. It is, however, gratifying to be able to assert that the increased demand and use of books is in pace with the growth of the population in the city. It must be apparent, from a moment's consideration of the subject, that the annual appropriations made by the City Government should receive no diminution. On the contrary, the condition of many of the books and the growing demand would seem to require even greater liberality.

The librarian now reports that upwards of 90,000 volumes were taken out during the past year; that is to say, the different volumes are taken out to be read at least five times on an average. If the whole number were taken out equally, it would be seen that the "wear and tear" would be inconsiderable; but the principal wear is upon certain classes of books, and the condition of these can be imagined. An actual examination discloses the fact that a great many of these books are in a state unfit for use, and some of them absolutely valueless, and no credit to any library. These books must be replaced by new ones, and a large part of last year's appropriation has been used for this purpose. But the same want is still pressing.

It cannot be claimed that the sums heretofore granted for the supply of books has been any burden to our tax-payers, or that any complaints have been made from that source. Taking our population to be 40,000, it would seem that an expenditure of $4,000 would

be only ten cents to a person. Or, if we take our assessors' valuation at $30,000,000, the same expenditure would impose a tax of about one-seventh part of a mill on a hundred dollars; or, if we desire to ascertain the cost of circulation, take the number of books taken out at 90,000, and the whole annual expenditure of the library at $4,000, and we shall find the cost of the use of each book by the reader is less than a half cent. This certainly shows that the library has been economically managed, and that there can be no just charge of extravagance.

The trustees do not, therefore, hesitate to request a larger appropriation for the ensuing year, while the wants of the library imperatively demand it.

The report of the librarian contains a statement in detail of the work done under her charge, and of the acquisitions to the library during the past year, and is respectfully submitted herewith.

CHARLES S. LINCOLN, *President.*
C. E. RYMES,
GEORGE A. BRUCE,
WILLIAM E. WELD,
JAMES E. WHITAKER,
JOHN B. VIALL,
J. HENRY FLITNER,
ELIJAH C. CLARK,
CHARLES H. BROWN, } *Trustees.*

SOMERVILLE, Dec. 3, 1890.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:—

GENTLEMEN, — In accordance with the rules and regulations of the library, I have the honor to submit herewith my report as librarian, on the condition and work of the library for the year ending December, 1890, being the eighteenth annual report since the organization of the library.

ACCESSIONS.

The library now contains 18,151 volumes, and of this number 1,428 have been added during the year. Three hundred and twenty-two have been withdrawn because worn out. The histories of many of the towns and cities of our Commonwealth have been placed in the Reference library; the *London Graphic*, in thirty-six volumes, "Old and new Boston," and "Dictionary of Anonymous Literature," four volumes. Among the most valued of our recent additions none are more prized than the "Cyclopædia of Music and Musicians," now completed in three volumes.

Among the books intended for circulation are "Heroes of the Dark Continent," "Massachusetts in the War," "One of a Thousand," "Emin Pasha Expedition," "Marriages of the Bourbons," "Influence of Sea Power upon History," "The House of the Wolfings," "Civil War on the Border," "Five Years among the Congo Cannibals," "The Reign of Charles IV.," "Sacred Books of the East," in thirty-six volumes, "History of Rome," in eight volumes, "History of Abraham Lincoln," in ten volumes, "The Republic; or, History of the Adminis-

trations," in eighteen volumes, "In Darkest Africa," "Historic Oddities," "Pre-historic America," "Psychology," "Four Years in Rebel Capitals," "Gleanings from Japan," "Characteristics of Volcanoes," "Great Speeches by Great Lawyers," "Great Opinions by Great Judges," "Experimental Science," "The Argonauts of California," "In Darkest England and the Way Out."

An unusual amount of books of biography and fiction have been placed in the library, and many duplicate sets of books by authors most read have also been purchased.

CIRCULATION.

The circulation for 304 library days has been 87,376. Of this number, 912 were used for reference and 86,464 for home use. The largest number given out on any day was 727, on February 1st. The smallest number was 128, on July 11th. Five hundred and forty volumes have been bound and rebound. In fiction much the largest number of books is called for; essays, including education, science, theology, etc., come next, with history and travel nearly as large; periodicals with drama next, biography next, with poetry last. An endeavor has been made, by supplying the High and grammar schools with extra cards, to make the library more useful to the teachers, allowing five cards to each teacher to use for school purposes. Many of the teachers had not before made any use of the library, and all seemed pleased with the suggestion. The teaching of history or geography can be made so much more delightful where many books on the same subject are at hand, and so easily procured as at the library, and where a class are interested to present something new from their own reading.

Not only in the school work will it be useful, but also in directing and guiding some of our young people who have already acquired a taste for reading, which is a very important beginning.

Quite small boys take out, and read, three and four books a week, know just what authors they like best, understand all about catalogues, supplements, bulletins, and even the card-catalogue. This they like, because they find there all the books of one author together; this, too, with scarcely any showing or extra pains on our part. Of course, they show and assist each other. They never ask the questions older people are sometimes inclined to, or expect to find a



book in the library, as they would in a book-store, the day it was issued; but, taking out books regularly, are content to take the book that we find, after they may have selected innumerable numbers, instead of becoming discouraged and going without any if the one book asked for happens to be out.

Some people wonder that anybody else should fancy the very book they had set their heart on, and say, "Well, I never can find the book in that I want," and then are ready to go away thinking it is of no use to try any more.

It is only by ascertaining the special tastes of some that the right book can be found, or another substituted, sometimes better than their own choice.

The old favorites among books still hold their own among the crowd of newer ones. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" leads in circulation, as it always has, and "Robinson Crusoe" is as great a favorite as when he first related his wonderful adventures.

REGISTRATION.

The registration for 1890 shows that during the year 5,131 persons have taken out books. Fourteen thousand nine hundred and seventy-three books have been covered, and 1,500 postal cards sent for books overdue.

The work of the assistants has been carried on in a careful and thorough manner, and the results accomplished have been all that could be desired.

The last week in March two stations for the delivery of books were established, one at West Somerville and one at East Somerville, where books are carried and returned by express four times a week. People have gladly availed themselves of this privilege, and evidences of its popularity are constantly given.

Through these two stations 5,948 books have been delivered. Other stations will undoubtedly be established in different sections of the city when called for.

Many successful attempts have been made to collect and gather up fragments of the early history of Somerville, and could they all be brought together, they would of themselves make a history.

The scrap-book of the library is to contain everything of the kind which can be obtained, and we hope that all who have any such

material on hand will contribute to the collection, which, when complete, will be for the benefit of all.

Some further accommodation for the placing of books will soon be needed, and the time is soon coming when the building itself will have to be enlarged, as it easily can be by extending the book room.

H. A. ADAMS, *Librarian.*

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

G. A. Bruce	Time expires	1892
J. H. Flitner	" "	1892
E. C. Clark	" "	1892
W. E. Weld	" "	1893
J. B. Viall	" "	1893
J. E. Whitaker	" "	1893
C. S. Lincoln	" "	1894
C. E. Rymes	" "	1894
C. H. Brown	" "	1894

President. — C. S. Lincoln.
Secretary. — W. E. Weld.

On Building and Grounds. — C. E. Rymes, G. A. Bruce, J. B. Viall.

On Administration. — J. E. Whitaker, E. C. Clark, W. E. Weld.

On Books and Catalogues. — G. A. Bruce, C. E. Rymes, C. H. Brown, J. E. Whitaker.

On Finance. — J. H. Flitner, J. B. Viall, E. C. Clark.

Librarian. — H. A. Adams.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF CITY TREASURER.

Cr.

Appropriation	$3,000 00
Dog licenses	2,631 12
Fines	327 91
Catalogues	42 30
J. O. Paul	1 50
	$6,002 83

Dr.

Salaries	$1,808 70	
Books	2,610 54	
Printing and stationery	245 10	
Binding	230 48	
Newspapers	29 55	
Gas	174 19	
Fuel	169 15	
Water	26 97	
Repairs	4 50	
Furniture	119 00	
Expressing	125 45	
Incidentals	50 29	
Insurance	252 00	
Branch office	25 00	
	$5,870 92	
Balance to 1891	131 91	
		$6,002 83



NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASS.,

FOR THE YEAR 1891.

1901



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT.
1892.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

INSTEAD OF

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASS.

FOR THE YEAR 1891.



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT.
1892.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 77076
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1901

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, January 27, 1892.

Referred to the committee on printing, to be printed in the annual reports. Sent down for concurrence.

GEORGE I. VINCENT, *Clerk.*

IN COMMON COUNCIL, January 27, 1892.

Concurred in.

WILLIAM P. MITCHELL, *Clerk pro tem.*

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, January 1, 1892.

To the City Council: —

In their report for the year ending December 31, 1891, the trustees of the Public Library placed much stress upon the wants of the library and the increasing demand for larger annual appropriations by the city.

In order that these wants may be made apparent, the condition of the material now on hand should be first considered.

The report of the librarian shows that there are on hand, of books of all kinds, in good, bad, and indifferent condition, 19,719 in number. This is the accumulation of the last nineteen years, during which a large and increasing population have made constant use of the advantages which the library has afforded.

The circulation shows a marked increase in 1891. The circulation in 1889 was 88,381; in the year following, 88,971; and in 1891 it reached 96,181, an increase of 7,210.

This may be accounted for by the increase in the number of persons who took out books during the year.

The number of names registered in 1890 was 5,131. During 1891 the number reached 7,162. This is the number of people having taken books within the last two years. It is easy to perceive what effect a constant use by so large a number of readers will have upon books. Covers become detached and torn, necessitating new binding; pages and leaves are worn out, dingy, and, in some cases, filthy and unfit for circulation.

This mass of rubbish, daily increasing, must be replaced. The librarian reports that 322 books were withdrawn in 1890 because they were worn out.

It is the desire of the trustees to keep the public supplied with the more important new publications.

Many old books of the above category are from necessity kept on the shelves.

If the growth and character of the library are to keep pace with the demands of the public, adequate means must be provided. Other wants besides that of the literary department are likewise pressing. The heating apparatus unexpectedly required extensive repairs, in order to render the rooms comfortable for occupation.

A new boiler has been put in, at an expense of about $500, and its payment has been left to the next year's appropriation.

Some shelving, as well as some furniture, have also been required, and obtained, which also are yet to be paid for. To meet all these wants, there should be at least an appropriation of $5,000.

It cannot be said that the amount furnished by the city has been more than adequate; on the contrary, the board of trustees for several years have urged the necessity for still larger sums, if the character and condition of the library are to be maintained on a creditable basis.

According to the "Report of the Free Public Library Commission," the city of Somerville does not compare favorably with the large cities and towns of the Commonwealth in what it is doing for its free Public Library.

The following tabular statements show what other cities and towns have done for their libraries: —

City or Town.	Population.	Books.
Brookline	12,000	35,000
Chicopee	14,000	11,500
Clinton	10,000	16,000
Fall River	75,000	40,000
Fitchburg	22,000	20,000
Haverhill	27,000	50,000
Springfield	44,000	71,000
Somerville	40,000	19,719
Taunton	25,000	31,000
Waltham	18,000	17,500
Westfield	10,000	13,800

In proportion to population, Somerville stands the lowest on the list. The attention of the City Council is especially invited to the comparatively small cost of maintaining the library last year.

The appropriation made in 1891, exclusive of the dog tax, which by law must be expended for the public library or schools (See Pub. Sts., ch. 102, sect. 107), is small compared with the population or the valuation of the city.

The sum appropriated in 1891 was $3,000. The population is probably not less than 42,000, making a tax averaging about seven cents to a person. Taking the city valuation of property at ($36,000,000) thirty-six million, the amount given to the library would make a tax of one-twelfth of a mill on a dollar.

By making a personal application to a taxpayer who is assessed for ($10,000) ten thousand dollars, his proportional share of the expense of maintaining the Public Library is less than one dollar.

It hardly seems necessary to the trustees that they should dwell upon the importance of a good public library to every community.

The "Free Public Library Commission" voiced the general sentiment when they say in their report: "A free public library is a good business investment for any town. Experience shows that the amount expended for it will be returned many fold, not alone in the intellectual and moral stimulus to the people, but also in material prosperity and in the increased value of property."

For a more detailed statement of the condition of the library and the transactions of the year reference is made to the report of the librarian.

In closing, it is but due to say that those having the immediate charge of the library have been faithful in the discharge of their duties.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES S. LINCOLN, *President.*
C. E. RYMES.
GEORGE A. BRUCE.
WILLIAM E. WELD.
JAMES E. WHITAKER.
J. HENRY FLITNER.
CHARLES H. BROWN.
JOHN B. VIALL.
E. C. CLARK.

SOMERVILLE, December, 1891.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

The nineteenth annual report, giving the operations of the Somerville Public Library for the year 1891, is herewith submitted: —

BOOKS.

The present number is 19,719. Of this number 1,568 volumes have been added during the past year, including bound periodicals.

One newspaper has been donated and four books. Two hundred and twenty have been worn out and discarded.

Among prominent purchases of the year may be mentioned: "Typical Elms and Other Trees of Massachusetts"; "Iconographic Encyclopædia," seven volumes; "Historical and Genealogical Register," forty-four volumes; "Proceedings of Massachusetts Historical Society," twenty-seven volumes; "Family Crest Book," two volumes; "Nantucket Historical Register," eight volumes; "Hind's Middlesex County," two volumes; "York Deeds," six volumes; "Harvard Book," two volumes; "History of the Supreme Court, U. S."; "Masterpieces of Industrial Art," three volumes; "London, Past and Present"; "Art and Criticism," "Practice of Pharmacy," "The Best Books."

While for general circulation "The Sepoy War and Mutiny," "The First Crossing of Greenland," "On the Border with Crook," "Ocean Steamships," "Canada and the Canadian Question," "Pharaohs, Fellahs, and Explorers," "Battlefields and Victory," "Practical Electricity," "History of Chemistry," "Arcadian Days," "Life of Chopin," "Elizabeth of Roumania," "Life of Napoleon III.," "Memoir of Jenny Lind Goldschmidt," "Christopher Columbus," by Winsor, "Life of Sir Robert Peel," "Florentine Nights," "Struggles of the Nations," "Equatorial Africa," "Our Italy,' "Sharp Eyes," "Spanish American Republics," "Harlein Miscellany," "Women of Turkey," have been added.

The number of new readers registered in the past year is 2,039, making 7,015 who have taken books within the past two years.

CIRCULATION.

The library has been open 304 days, and 96,181 books have been used. Of this number 1,054 were used for reference, and 95,127 for home use.

The following table gives volumes, circulation, and expenses for the ten years commencing with 1881: —

Year.	Volumes.	Circulation.	Salaries.	Books and Periodicals.	Other Expenses.
1881 . .	9,035	67,649	$1,297 25	$1,272 04	$322 94
1882 . .	9,766	67,673	1,304 19	971 91	407 49
1883 . .	10,574	70,531	1,307 31	1,282 92	177 60
1884 . .	11,197	72,591	1,278 05	1,315 06	539 19
1885 . .	12,208	66,092	1,298 30	1,748 89	666 71
1886 . .	13,146	77,610	1,537 17	2,325 03	1,491 16
1887 . .	14,095	80,559	1,590 83	1,901 34	1,129 61
1888 . .	15,833	81,844	1,608 12	3,055 06	2,079 95
1889 . .	17,045	88,381	1,874 88	2,520 81	1,755 97
1890 . .	18,151	88,971	1,808 70	2,610 54	1,451 68

These books, constantly in circulation, need to be continually renewed, as they soon become, in careless hands, unfit for use. Though many reminders are given to those who use them most, still neatness and care in the handling of books have to be constantly insisted upon, and in some cases the privileges of the library withheld until the lesson is learned.

The largest number given out on any day was 824. The smallest number, 157.

The largest weekly issue was 2,437, for the week ending February 28th. The smallest was 1,338, in August.

The library has grown largely in one direction, that of history, nearly 200 volumes having been added relating to the early history of the towns and cities of this Commonwealth; while the collection of the histories of the Massachusetts regiments is now considered quite complete.

The schools have been liberally supplied with catalogues, and teachers provided with extra cards for school use; and it is quite desirable that we should know what books are most needed in that direction, that duplicates may be provided if necessary. For this purpose we would particularly request lists of books from the teachers.

HARRIET A. ADAMS, *Librarian.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF CITY TREASURER.

Cr.

Balance from 1890	$131 91
Appropriation	3,000 00
Dog licenses	2,596 68
Fines	358 06
Catalogues	24 12
Howe & Flint	1 50
Cambridge Gas Light Co.	2 84
	$6,115 11

Dr.

Salaries	$1,912 83	
Books	2,713 07	
Printing and stationery	284 90	
Binding	235 90	
Newspapers	10 00	
Gas	176 76	
Fuel	205 90	
Water	26 10	
Repairs	59 59	
Furniture	163 75	
Expressing	143 70	
Incidentals	80 68	
Branch office	100 00	
	$6,115 13	
Balance to 1892	1 98	
		$6,115 11

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

88099

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASS.,

FOR THE YEAR 1892.

SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT.
1893.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASS,

FOR THE YEAR 1892.



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT.
1893.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
88099
ASTOR LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
1901

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

IN COMMON COUNCIL, January 18, 1893.

Referred to the committee on printing, to be printed in the annual reports. Sent up for concurrence.

CHARLES S. ROBERTSON, *Clerk.*

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, January 25, 1893.

Concurred in.

GEORGE I. VINCENT, *Clerk.*



CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

To the City Council of Somerville:—

GENTLEMEN,—The trustees of the Public Library respectfully submit the following report for the year 1892:—

The total number of books now belonging to the library is 21,024, showing an increase of 1,305 during the year. Of this a considerable number of old books by donation constitutes a portion.

The number of issues of books was 96,311.

The condition of the library and the continued demand for the supply of its wants seem to warrant the trustees in asking for a liberal appropriation. The amount placed in their hands last year proved to be inadequate for the current expenses, and the payment of a number of bills was necessarily extended and the purchase of valuable publications withheld. This state of things arose partially from some confusion in regard to the "dog tax." The amount credited to the library fund was found to be smaller than in previous years, and much less than the trustees had reason to expect. The amount received from the dog tax in 1891 was $2,596.66, while in 1892 only $1,003.97 was received. It will be well in the future to obtain the amount of the dog tax, if possible, before making the appropriation.

There are other causes which will render a larger expenditure to maintain properly the Public Library for the ensuing year unavoidable:—

1. It has been proposed to broaden and extend its privileges, especially in limiting the age of children at fourteen years, instead of sixteen, who shall be allowed to take out books. It is also proposed

to extend the same privileges to the pupils of the High School and the first class in the grammar schools, irrespective of age.

2. The constant wear and tear of books is always expected, however much dreaded. The incessant use of popular works can have but one result, and that is the annihilation of the material of which they are made, and duplicates must be supplied to repair the loss. This year has furnished no exception to the rule.

3. The attention of the trustees has been called to the injurious effect which the burning of gas has upon the bindings of books, and the suggestion has been made that electric lighting be substituted. A further advantage by such a change will be apparent, as the risk of fire will be thereby diminished. The superiority of electric over gas light will be generally acknowledged. The expense of such a change has not yet been ascertained. A careful estimate will, however, in due time be made of this, as well as of the other items that go to make up the equipment of the library, and submitted later to the City Council.

4. The acquisitions to the library are, with rare exceptions, made by purchase. Hardly a notable donation has been made for many years. The supply for its support must be, therefore, mainly derived from the taxes of property holders. To meet the wants of a rapidly increasing population, there must be a corresponding outlay.

It is not necessary here to descant on the blessings and benefits which a good and well-ordered public library may furnish to our rapidly growing population. As an important instrument and aid in the education of youth, its advantage will be acknowledged. At all events, it has become an established institution, to be maintained at public expense. The trustees, therefore, can have no reluctance in making this their annual appeal for an ample allowance to be placed at their disposal.

CHARLES S. LINCOLN, *President.*

December, 1892.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

GENTLEMEN, — The twentieth annual report which I have had the honor of presenting to you shows the condition and wants of the library.

BOOKS.

We have now 21,024 books belonging to the library, 1,427 having been added, and 152 withdrawn during the year. Among books added to the reference library are: "History of the Orders of Knighthood," "Glimpses of the World," "Century Dictionary," "Dramatic Year Book," "Eminent Scotsmen," "Debates in Massachusetts Convention," "Allibone's Dictionary Supplement," "History of Plymouth County," "History of Essex County," "History of Worcester County," "Magnalia Christi Americana," "The Soldier in the Civil War," "History of the Tower of London," "Essex Historical Collection," "New Hampshire Historical Collection," "Photographs of the World," "Dictionary of Hymnology," "Exposition Universelle," "Greek and Roman Antiquities," and others.

For general circulation we have added "Across Thibet," "Journeyings in Persia," "Ceylon," "Palms and Pearls," "Sweden and the Swedes," "Mahdiism," "Messages of the Books," "History of Art," "Dynamo Electric Machinery," "Comparative Embryology," "Studies in Chaucer," "Memorials of Edinburgh," "Three Episodes of Massachusetts History," "Life of Cotton Mather," "Life of Paul Revere," "Memoirs of General Heath," "History of King Philip's War," "Chronicles of the Pilgrims," "Duruy's History of Greece," "Decisive Events," and others.

The number of books purchased is much smaller than usual, owing to the greatly reduced sum available this year for the purchase of books and other necessary expenses.

The library has been open 304 days, and 96,381 books have been given out. For home use, 95,248, and for reference, 1,063.

Through our two agencies 9,729 books have been delivered and returned with but small expense, and in one case received without remuneration. The thanks of our committee are due to one who is willing to serve the cause of the library in this way.

CIRCULATION.

The largest number given out in any month was 10,462, in March; the smallest number given out in any month was 6,053, in July.

The largest number given out on any day was 838, on March 19; the smallest number on any day was 131, on July 25. The number of names registered was 1,732. The number of books covered was 14,337.

Eighty-three books have been presented to the library by the following persons: —

C. H. Guild, 1.
Mrs. M. Munroe, 1.
Hon. W. H. Hodgkins, 1.
G. A. Gordon, 1.
Boston School Committee, 29.
C. S. Lincoln, 12.
Mrs. H. E. Creighton, 35.
E. B. Stillings & Co., 1.
A. Friend, 1.
H. F. Woods, 1.

It is pleasant to know that a book has been read and enjoyed before being presented to the library, where its usefulness will be demonstrated over and over again. We can imagine an interest in the library so great that its shelves might be enriched with many a choice volume, and whole ranges be named (as they are in some libraries) for some generous donor. For there is never any danger of a public library being full. Books may accumulate and the building be crowded to overflowing, but the library itself can never be full.

As there is no limit to knowledge, so there is no limit to the demand for it, and there can never be too many new books to meet the wants of all.

Teachers and scholars are now well supplied with cards. All the pupils of the High School, as well as the highest class of the grammar schools, being allowed to have cards; at the age of fourteen, also, any resident of the city is entitled to a card, in accordance with the new rule of the committee. This rule has but just gone into operation, so that no record of its success can be made.

We always welcome with pleasure the suggestions of those versed in any specialty with regard to the books desirable for us to obtain in their department.

In that way I have found books proposed which might not so soon have been entered in the library, and which were immediately in demand. "Experimental Science" is one such book of which we have more than one copy, and could use twice as many.

"Our Country," by Strong, is another, which, when returned to us, is always commended as the very best of its kind.

H. A. ADAMS, *Librarian.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF CITY TREASURER.

CR.

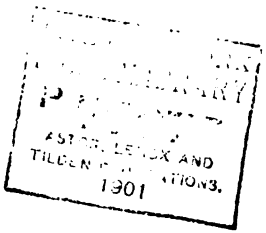
Balance from 1891	$3 48	
Appropriation	4,000 00	
Dog licenses	1,003 97	
Fines	420 14	
Catalogues	33 90	
A. S. Hudson	4 00	
	$5,465 49	
Balance to 1893	335 44	
		$5,800 93

DR.

Salaries	$2,110 07	
Books	2,112 98	
Printing and stationery	269 96	
Binding	137 35	
Newspapers	12 00	
Gas	197 28	
Fuel	18 00	
Water	29 00	
Repairs	9 64	
Furniture	102 00	
Gas fixtures	130 75	
Steam fittings	460 73	
Expressing	103 27	
Incidentals	7 90	
Branch office	100 00	
		$5,800 93

REPORT

OF THE



SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1893

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY.

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY.

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

Compliments of

John S. Hayes,

Librarian.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY.

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.



TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library,

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE,

MASSACHUSETTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1893.



PRESS OF HENRY W. PITMAN, 28 UNION SQUARE.
1894.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 77077
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1901

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, January 24, 1894.

Referred to the committee on printing, to be printed in the annual reports. Sent down for concurrence.

GEORGE I. VINCENT, *Clerk.*

IN COMMON COUNCIL, January 25, 1894.

Concurred in.

WILLIAM P. MITCHELL, *Clerk pro tem.*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS OF THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, DEC. 31, 1893.

TRUSTEES.

CHARLES S. LINCOLN.
CHRISTOPHER E. RYMES.
CHARLES H. BROWN.
J. HENRY FLITNER.
ELIJAH C. CLARK.
CHARLES A. WEST.
J. FRANK WELLINGTON.
JAMES E. WHITAKER.
JOHN B. VIALL.

OFFICERS.

CHARLES S. LINCOLN, ... *President.*
CHARLES A. WEST, ... *Secretary.*

COMMITTEES.

Building and Grounds.—RYMES, VIALL, BROWN, AND WELLINGTON.

Administration.—WHITAKER, WELLINGTON, AND CLARK.

Books and Catalogues.—LINCOLN, *ex-officio*, RYMES, WEST, VIALL, AND BROWN.

Finance.—FLITNER, CLARK, AND WHITAKER.

LIBRARIAN.

JOHN S. HAYES.

ASSISTANTS.

ANNA L. STONE.
MARY J. WARREN.

CATALOGUER.

F. MABEL NORCROSS.

Names of those who have served on the Board of Trustees, since the Library was established in 1872.

	Elected.	Retired.
John P. Marshall, President, 1872–75	1872	1875
Austin Belknap	1872	1875
Charles H. Guild, President, 1875–76	1875	1876
Quincy A. Vinal	1872	1877
Edward C. Booth	1872	1876
Michael J. Canavan	1872	1874
George O. Brastow	1872	1873
William H. Furber	1872	1876
Selwyn Z. Bowman	1872	1873
Charles G. Pope	1873	1876
" "	1885	1889
H. H. Barber, President, 1881–85	1873	1885
S. A. Carlton	1873	1876
Charles Lowe	1874	1874
William Veazie	1875	1885
William G. Toucey, President, 1876–81	1875	1884
T. J. Buffum	1876	1885
F. H. Raymond	1876	1879
A. M. Robinson	1876	1882
R. C. Downer	1876	1880
E. S. Conant	1876	1884
William H. Brine	1877	1889
C. S. Lincoln, President, 1885–	1878	
J. Henry Flitner	1880	
C. E. Rymes	1882	
William E. Weld	1884	1893
Mark F. Burns	1884	1885
George A. Bruce	1884	1892
Sanford Hanscom, M. D.	1885	1890
James E. Whitaker	1885	
Elijah C. Clark	1889	
Charles H. Brown	1889	
John B. Viall	1890	
Charles A. West	1892	
J. Frank Wellington	1893	
LIBRARIANS.		
Isaac Pitman	1872	1875
Miss H. A. Adams	1875	1893
John S. Hayes	1893	

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

To the City Council of Somerville:—

GENTLEMEN,—During the year now closing the Public Library of Somerville has exerted its customary silent but beneficient influences in the homes and schools of our city. Its interests have received increased attention from the Board of Trustees, and certain changes and improvements have either been made or planned to secure greater ease in the consultation and delivery of books, and to increase the efficiency of the library in all directions.

The trustees have for several years felt that they have been laboring under great disadvantage from the imperfect classification and arrangement, of the books thus far placed on the shelves. This has, in a large degree, resulted from the want of suitable room at the time the Public Library was instituted. The evil seemed to increase instead of diminish as the number of volumes multiplied, until at last, nothing but radical treatment seemed to the Board adequate to overcome the difficulties of the situation.

A reclassification of the library must be a gradual work, and if carried on while the ordinary duties of the librarian are being performed, will require much time, skill, and patience.

A systematic plan has been devised by which it is expected that there will be very little interruption in the regular distribution and use of books, although it is not too much to say that some inconveniences will be temporarily felt.

The trustees feel that the proposed changes will require much labor of an important and peculiar character. The work to be done requires physical endurance as well as mental fitness, experience and education. In the judgment of the Board, the services of a man were required to meet the demand of the situation. The Board feel that they are fortunate in securing the services of Mr. John S. Hayes as librarian.

He has the requisite qualifications for the position. He is well known in the community, and by experience, habits, and tastes, is well adapted to the peculiar work he will be called upon to perform. His experience as a teacher for many years in the public schools in this city, his wide knowledge of literature, his familiarity with American history, and his interest in the Public Library, will enable him to render valuable services in all directions. His election took effect July 1, 1893, he has entered upon his work with enthusiasm.

In making choice of a new librarian for reasons of such paramount importance, the action of the trustees will not be regarded as derogatory to our former librarian, Miss Harriet A. Adams. During the many years she has occupied the position she has won the approbation of every Board of Trustees for the singular faithfulness and ability with which she has performed her duties. It was with keen regret that the present Board felt compelled to part with her services as librarian, but they realized that here was a new work, requiring peculiar experience and differing from the ordinary routine of duties in which she had been engaged.

The trustees respectfully and earnestly again make their appeal to the City Council for the means to satisfy the needs of the Public Library for the coming year.

In a rapidly growing city, even the ordinary demands of a library, and the expenses of administration must necessarily increase from year to year. These demands must be met. The constant waste from the wear and tear of books is great and inevitable. This waste must be repaired. There are always expenses to be incurred which cannot be regarded in the nature of fixed charges, nor always anticipated, such as extraordinary repairs and supplies.

This year it was deemed expedient to substitute electricity for gas in order to avoid danger from fire and the injurious effect of gas, as well as to secure a more convenient and agreeable means of lighting the building. All these things call for additional expenditures.

The trustees, therefore, are called upon to make greater demands upon their fellow citizens the coming year than ever before, but they promise to make an ample return for all that is granted

them, in the greater usefulness of the institution placed in their charge.

The trustees would respectfully submit with this, the report of the present librarian, who has described the conditions of the library and its needs, and stated, in greater fulness, the plans for its future management. We wish gratefully to acknowledge the unusually large donations of the present year to the library, details concerning which will be found in the librarian's report.

The trustees, in closing, desire to say that the custodians of the library have discharged their duties with marked fidelity.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES S. LINCOLN.
CHRISTOPHER E. RYMES.
CHARLES H. BROWN.
J. HENRY FLITNER.
ELIJAH C. CLARK.
CHARLES A. WEST.
J. FRANK WELLINGTON.
JAMES E. WHITAKER.
JOHN B. VIALL.

December 26, 1893.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR 1893.

CREDIT.

Appropriation	$5,500.00
Dog Licenses	3,655.64
Fines	335.06
Catalogues	24.00
	$9,514.70

DEBIT.

Balance of 1892	$335.44
Books and Periodicals	2,929.73
Salaries	2,867.91
Binding	660.05
Repairs	543.30
Wiring for Electric Lighting	349.92
Printing ($296.70) and Stationery ($86.54)	303.24
Covers and Cards	277.00
Fuel	244.50
Express	221.95
Gas	209.91
Electric Lighting	37.18
Book Cases and Desk	191.75
Insurance	187.31
Branch Office	75.00
Water	24.00
Call Bells	19.40
Post-office Box and postage	6.00
Incidentals	7.75
Balance to 1894	23.36
	$9,514.70

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:—

GENTLEMEN,—In compliance with your request and in accordance with your by-laws, it becomes my pleasant duty to place in your hands this report as the twenty-first annual report of the librarian.

The Public Library is not only increasing in size, but it is steadily extending its field of usefulness. Judged by the use our citizens make of it, and the gifts it has received from many of our residents, it is constantly gaining a place in the hearts of those who love our city and who have a special regard for those institutions that diffuse knowledge and power, and aim better to fit her citizens for every duty.

The enlarged appropriation by our city government indicates that Somerville is ever liberal to her educational institutions, and that the Public Library holds a warm spot in her heart. The rapid growth of the city calls for a larger expenditure of money in all departments, and this library is not an exception to the rule. While a much larger sum could have been judiciously and profitably spent, it is a matter for congratulation that you have kept your expenditures practically within the appropriations. While doing this, you have not only added the usual number of books, but have made expensive additions and repairs, and have begun certain changes and improvements which, when completed, will increase the efficiency and usefulness of the library, and give it place among the best of its class.

The benefits of a public library cannot be reckoned in coin, expressed in figures, nor described with the pen. The number of

books on the shelves, the annual additions, the monthly circulation, the books covered, and the fines collected, may or may not furnish interesting reading.

The public have placed in your hands something more than this building and its contents, valuable as they are; you hold a higher office than the custodians of public property. Upon you rests the responsible duty of furnishing the mental food, not only of many of the adults of the city, but of our children and youth. What you select, they use, and thus you exert an influence which cannot be measured. Our Public Library has grown to be a great educational force in the community,—the "people's college," from which they are to obtain, not amusement and entertainment simply, but information, instruction, inspiration, and power. The high character of the books selected and placed on the shelves, testifies to your faithfulness and to the faithfulness of your predecessors. Your endeavors seem to have been of a truly democratic character, for you have provided not only for the wants of the scholarly and cultivated, but also for those of moderate attainments; and it is gratifying to see many standard works circulated among readers of limited educational advantages, showing that they, too, appreciate and enjoy books that treat of science, art, and history.

STATISTICS.

The whole number of books placed in the library since it was founded in 1872, is 24,869, and the number belonging to the library at the present time, as nearly as can be ascertained, is 22,606. During the year you have added 1,777 volumes, while 195 have been worn out, lost, or withdrawn. Some of the worn-out books cannot be replaced, as they are out of print; others of them are of only transient interest, and of no instructive or disciplinary value; we may welcome this natural decay, as we can fill the space with something better. The survival of the fittest should apply in a public library as elsewhere.

The library has been open to the public 305 days during the past year, and 93,213 books have been given out for home use, a daily average of 306.6. The largest number given out in one day was on

February 11,—804. The largest number in one month was in April, —10,181 ; the smallest number was in August,—4,817. There were distributed through the agency in West Somerville, 6,428 volumes, and by the East Somerville agency, 3,462.

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

No careful record has been kept of the books consulted in the library, but it is very evident that a more general use is being made of the reference books and the books of Americana, than heretofore. Many persons are using the library freely in pursuing their investigations, and as an assistance in literary work. It is to be expected that the public will consult more freely the rare and valuable books in the Reference Library, when they realize how rich the shelves are in this direction, and that it is continually receiving additions as rapidly as opportunity and the funds at your disposal warrant.

We regret that changes sometimes mean inconvenience and trouble to the patrons of the library, and the changing of the reference library has been particularly annoying to those who desire to consult the books. I had hoped before this time to have so far re-organized this department as to be able to have the room open all the time and to have a regular attendant in charge. But many of the books had to be sent to the bindery, all had to be re-catalogued, and the demands upon the time of all our force were so great that it was reluctantly decided not to open the room until the change was completed. It was also found that it was impossible to heat the reference-room without additional radiators and double windows. At no distant day, I hope to be able to announce that this department is well equipped for good work, as you have already decided to add many new volumes to those we already possess. The best we can now do is to bring reference books to the reading-room,—and we are not always able to do even this.

Among the more costly books added to the Reference Library are :—

American Caricatures.
Fletcher's Index to General Literature.
Fletcher's Index to Periodical Literature.
Peale's Atlas.

Life of Michael Angelo.
Old Italian Masters.
English Cathedrals.
Book of Crests.
Modern State Trials.
Historic Houses.
New York Historical Collection, containing letters of General Lee.
Collections of Massachusetts Historical Society, (complete).
Schoolcraft's History of the Indian Tribes of the United States.
Death of Major Andre.
Defence of Norumbega.
Arena (from the beginning).
Bay State Monthly and New England Magazine, (complete).
Lippincott's Pronouncing Gazetteer.
Complete Index to Harper's Magazine.
Neal's History of New England, 1720.
Letters and Memoirs of Madam Riedesel.
Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, (complete).
British Birds.
Earth and Its Inhabitants.
Cyclopaedia of United States History.

VALUABLE ADDITIONS.

For general Circulation we have added:—
Six Months in the Appenines.
Works of Jefferson.
Coursing and Falconry.
Old and New Astronomy. Proctor.
Photographics. Wilson.
Journey from Edinburg. Campbell.
Siberia. Atkinson.
Travels in Russia. Wilson.
Museum of Antiquity.
The World, its Cities, and Peoples.
The Great World's Fair.
Memoir and Letters of Charles Sumner.
Early Diary of Francis Burney.

Sixty Years of Recollections.
Halliwell-Phillips Outline of the Life of Shakespeare.
Literary History of Early Christianity.
Gun and Camera in South Africa.
Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay.
History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
Completed Writings of Washington.
Theosophy of Psychological Religion.
Tragedies of the Cæsars. Baring-Gould.
Life of Marie Antoinette.
Travel and Adventure in South-east Africa.
Letters of James Russell Lowell.
Memoirs of Count de Falloux.
Donation from Perkins Institute.
Green's History of the English People. (illustrated edition.)
Etrusco Roman Remains. Leland.
And many others of equal value.

DONATIONS.

During the present year, the library has received as gifts 356 bound volumes, 147 pamphlets, 1,099 numbers of periodicals, and three pictures. Mrs. C. G. Pope has given 38 volumes, including several volumes of valuable Americana; Hon. Edward Glines, 47 volumes, several of which are very valuable; Thos. S. Wentworth Esq., a copy of the History of the 13th Regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers.

The Perkins Institution for the Blind has given from the Howe Memorial Printing Fund, 81 volumes in embossed type for the use of the blind. These books are a library in themselves, and cover the field of general literature, including juveniles, poetry, biography, history, religion, essays, text-books. and fiction. While the number of persons needing these books is few, the pleasure and profit those few may derive from them, make the gift of immeasurable value. And I congratulate you on the fact that this library is the first public library in the State to place books in embossed type on its shelves.

LIST OF DONATIONS.

	VOLS.	PAMPH.	PERIODICALS.
Mrs. Lucy M. Adams			12
Bohemian Voice			12
Builder's Iron Foundry	1		
Citizen Publishing Co.	1	1	96
Deloraine P. Colby	1		
C. A. Cushman	2		
Joshua H. Davis	1		
Prof. A. S. Dolbear	14	46	200
Horace L. Eaton		4	
Miss Mary E. Elliot	1		
Charles D. Elliot	2	2	
Mrs. Lizzie P. E. Evans	6		
Mrs. L. A. Field			12
Hon. Edward Glines	47		
J. T. Hammer	1		
William C. Hammond	8		
Harvard College	1		
J. S. Hayes	6		
Mrs. H. E. Hill	1		
Hon. N. P. Hill, Denver Col.	1		
Indian Right Association		24	30
William P. Jones	1		
Journal Publishing Co.	1	2	104
Mrs. Martha P. Lowe	3		
Robert Luce	4	2	2
Thomas Miller		5	
Emma F. Munroe	2		
State of Massachusetts	38		
Millicent Library, Fairhaven, Mass.	2		
Charles E. Nickerson			171
Mrs. M. J. Ober	1		
George W. Perkins	20	50	
Mrs. C. G. Pope	38		
Perkins Institute for the Blind	81		
Mrs. A. E. Pickens	1		
William J. Robinson	1		
Salem Public Library			12
Sunset Club, Chicago	2		
G. A. Southworth	1		
Springfield Public Library			12
E. A. Stone	5		
Charles I. Shepard			356
B. F. Thompson	2		
H. W. Tarbell	2		
Tuftonian			10
Tufts College Library		10	
United Societies. Manifesto			12
United States Government	51		
Ursuline Convent, New Orleans		1	
Worcester Board of Trade	1		
Thomas S. Wentworth	1		
Rev. A. E. Winship	3		
Dr. R. Willis			58

E. S. Barrett donated six cards issued by the Trustees of the First M. E. Church, in 1874, when they built the church.

F. D. Bourne presented three photographs of the Gen. Lee headquarters, beautifully framed, that should adorn some room in this building.

Miss Mary Flannagan donated a number of clippings from newspapers, relating to Somerville people or Somerville affairs.

It is hoped that the example set by these generous donors will be followed by others, and that many books, pamphlets, and periodicals that are now lying unused in many a household will be sent here, and either be put into circulation, or, if they should be duplicates of those we now have, be exchanged by us for books we need.

RENEWALS AND THE BORROWER'S CARD.

The by-laws of the library allow a borrower to retain a book fourteen days, and if renewed before the fourteen days have expired, it can remain in his possession another 14 days without incurring a fine; but the Committee on Books and Catalogues may require that new books shall be returned in a shorter time and that no renewal of such books shall be made. Under this rule all fiction, juvenile books, some works of travel, histories, and many other books were marked to circulate only seven days; after a time, however, instead of removing the seven-day limit, these books were allowed to be renewed, making them practically fourteen-day books, but putting the borrower to unnecessary trouble. With the possible exception of works of fiction and some small books, one week is too short a period to devote to a good book, and I am confident that the patrons of the library would appreciate having as few seven-day books as possible. It would, in my judgment, be wise to make *all* books that have been in the circulating library one year, fourteen-day books, perhaps not allowing fiction and juveniles to be renewed. This arrangement would appear to reduce the circulation of the library, for it has always been the custom here to count a renewed book the same as one taken out, that is, counting a renewed book twice, when it may have left the library but once. This change would also materially reduce the amount collected in fines, a very desirable thing to do.

A new card has been provided for the patrons of the library, which will enable them to keep the call-numbers selected until they obtain the books desired. Space is provided for fifty numbers, and if the holder keeps the spaces filled, he will be enabled to obtain his book much more quickly, and the delivery-room will be partly relieved of the crowd, as patrons are not delayed every time they come to the library by having to select new numbers. If, at any time, a borrower desires a different book from any indicated on the card, he makes out a white slip provided for the purpose, and hands it to the attendant with the card, and the numbers on the slip receive attention, instead of those on the card.

A new card for teachers has also been prepared, upon which they can take out a number of books, not exceeding ten at one time, for use in school. At no distant day, I hope to be able to report some plan to make the library even more helpful to the schools.

LOCAL LITERATURE.

Permit me to call your attention to the language of Justin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard College, at the dedication of this building, which expresses the present policy of your Board of Trustees :—

"I think there is no more important purpose of a local library than to preserve its local literature, and the writings of its local authors; and I would extend the provision to those writers who were born within the local precincts. There is no other sure way of preserving such books; for the great libraries, with their enormous field, must of necessity overlook much. The preservation somewhere of all books of a serious purpose, even if that purpose be nothing more than the creation of a healthy pastime, all students, not only of literature, but of the history of manners, will unite in commending.

It would doubtless be too much to say that just the matter which kindles our fires, and supplies our paper mills, is destined to become the great treasures of our libraries in later centuries; but there is a good deal of truth in it nevertheless. It is those books and tracts which are so insignificant in their day of freshness, because we are too near them to discern their relations, that are preserved in obscurity, to become in one time the treasures upon which the binder's skill is exhausted. The commonness which

makes us despise them now, gives the flavor which makes them representative then.

It is significant that Sir Thomas Bodley, in founding the library at Oxford, which now proudly bears his name, counselled against the accession of the waifs and strays of a London season, and particularly of plays. These very tracts that a few pence could have bought then, I have known the custodians of that library in our day to compete for at scores, and even at hundreds of pounds. The most costly nuggets of our English libraries to-day are the little play-books of Queen Elizabeth's time, when countless thousands nearly all perished with the reading.

In 1846, Panizza, the great librarian of the British Museum, said, 'If a librarian had been guided by critics, he would have burned the early productions of Byron; and had he judged from their first reception, he would have thrown away, as worthless, 'Paradise Lost' and Newton's 'Principia'."

Mr. Edward Edwards says, 'The trash of one generation becomes the highly prized treasure of another.' Such a statement is of course open to limitations, and for a library like yours, hardly I suppose aspiring to be one of the great libraries of the world, the limitations are obvious; but it is to-day the rule of the Bodleian, the British Museum, the great library of Paris, not to name some of the other leading libraries in Europe, as well as in this country, to reject nothing, having long ago learned the folly of discrimination."

We should, therefore, reject nothing that relates to Somerville, or her children and should gladly preserve everything that comes to us which will aid the future student in obtaining a correct idea of how the present generation employed its time.

ABUSE OF PRIVILEGES.

The most annoying thing connected with the administration of a public library is the abuse books receive in the hands of certain of those who are allowed its privileges. It hardly seems possible that a being endowed with ordinary commonsense would treat any thing, much less borrowed property, in such a careless, heartless manner. The books are soiled, torn, and defaced, valuable plates, pictures, and maps removed and retained,—in plain English stolen!—and by persons it would not seem possible to suspect. Were it not for such persons, we might remove all restrictions even on valuable works, and stop covering

our books—a great expense in the aggregate—and let them circulate in the attractive covering the book-makers give them. To the cultivated person, a rich binding is an added charm to a good book. Books like choice friends should be treated kindly.

I am inclined to think that the free text-book in our school system is partly responsible for this careless use of books. That which costs us nothing is lightly prized. The child is not made to realize the intrinsic worth of the books provided him. If he or his parents bought them, he would be more likely to appreciate their value and see the need of more care in using them. I know of no better work our schools can do than to teach children the value of books, and that to mar or disfigure them is to injure friends. We seldom misuse what we properly appreciate and enjoy. What we love we treat tenderly.

"A book" said Henry Ward Beecher "is not a luxury, but one of the necessaries of life. It is better for weariness than sleep, better for cheerfulness than wine; it is often a better physician than the doctor, a better preacher than the minister, a better sanctuary than the drowsy church."

RE-BINDING.

During the past year 1,492 volumes were sent to the bindery, and there are many books on our shelves to-day that ought to be re-bound before they are again put into circulation. As the library increases in age, the bills for rebinding will necessarily be larger, and this fact must be considered by the city council in making its appropriation for the library.

Your Committee on Books has decided, wisely I think, to bind all books except fiction, in "half-leather", either morocco or cowhide. The only reason for continuing to use cloth for binding fiction, is the lack of a sufficient appropriation to permit the use of leather.

BOOK LISTS.

The printed list of books available to the public is contained in the catalogue of 1888 and in the supplements of 1889 and 1892. These three lists include all books in the library bought before November 1, 1891. The list of additions since that date, some thirty-six

hundred volumes, has never been printed. There is no doubt that many patrons of the library desire to select their books at home, and would appreciate a complete list of the books. A strictly complete list is impossible, however, for while a list is being printed, new additions are being made, and a bulletin must be issued.

A catalogue arranged under one alphabet by subjects, titles, and authors, would probably cost in the neighborhood of two thousand dollars, and I would not advise your printing one until the new classification is completed; but to bridge over the difficulty in the meantime, I would suggest that you issue monthly bulletins in which the books added since 1891 should appear under authors and titles, and that the public card catalogue be discontinued until one can be prepared with subjects, titles, authors and cross references. The one now in use is by title only, and would be of no assistance to the reader, as all titles would be available in printed form under the proposed arrangement.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Were it a matter of choice, I would willingly postpone an expression of opinion as to what, in my judgment, would increase the usefulness of the library and add to its efficiency, until longer experience and more careful thought might give assurance of the practical value of my views.

While it is scarcely six months since the administrative management was placed in my charge, it is nearly two years since you requested me to make a study of the plans, aims, and administration of an institution that ranks next to the church and the school.

Besides trying to become familiar with the routine administration of the affairs of the library, I have endeavored to find out, as time would permit, the character of the books and to study its life and growth as found in the records of this board, and in your reports. As a result, I can freely say that the library has been exceedingly fortunate in having the services of able and devoted men and women in its organization, management, and administration. It has been built up and carried forward with no false step, or retrograde movement, from its small beginning in a little room, until it has quite outgrown this beautiful building,

and it seeks to-day new opportunities of usefulness even in advance of public requirement.

We are all agreed that a complete re-organization of the library must be made at the earliest possible moment, that this re-organization must be made without closing the library to the public, and that the books must be thoroughly classified into the groups to which they properly belong. It is generally admitted that not less than twelve groups should be made, as follows:—

0. General Works.
1. Philosophy.
2. Religion.
3. Sociology.
4. Philology.
5. Natural Science.
6. Useful Arts.
7. Fine Arts.
8. Literature.
9. History.
B. Biography.
F. Fiction.

I trust that nothing will prevent our beginning this work and continuing it until it is completed, a finding-list printed, and a card catalogue of all our books with cross-references, etc., prepared. It will take years to do this, but the classification and re-numbering once done, will be done for all time, and the usefulness of the library will be increased immeasurably.

When the classification is completed, the new numbers placed in the books, and we are ready to place the books in their new position, we must have at least twelve hundred feet more shelving in the stack-room alone. Allowing one hundred and twenty feet of shelves for each one thousand books, at the end of five years you will find your shelves full. Economy and prudence would suggest that no change be attempted until an addition be made to the stack-room, and provision made for at least sixty thousand volumes; for as our city grows in population the an-

nual addition of books to the library must also increase. This leads me to call your attention to the early need of more room in several directions.

When I took charge of the library, I found several thousand books on the shelves in a position ruinous to the binding, but enforced by the faulty construction of the shelves and the crowded condition of the room. To gain space to place these books in proper position, we fitted up the store-room and filled it with public documents. All the bound magazines we removed to the small room up stairs which will hold no more unless we put in a central stack. The reference books we removed to the large room in the second story, a room unfitted and inconvenient for this purpose, but large enough for several years' growth. The room formerly used for the reference-room was given up to works on Americana and to the rare and more expensive works that are not in general circulation. These changes relieved the stack-room for the time being, and we have room for perhaps three thousand volumes more. In less than two years from to-day with your books still in a fixed location, your stack-room will be crowded, and there will be no relief but in an addition to the building.

The present delivery-room is already too small for the large numbers that come to the library for books, and we have no space for a properly arranged card catalogue for public use.

The reading-room is much too small for even present demands and when an addition is made, a new reading-room should be provided and this room devoted to book shelves.

This library can never occupy the position it should as an educational force in the community, until provision is made for the investigator and the student. Rooms are needed to which the intellectual worker can retire with the books he needs, make his investigation and study in quiet. And I hope and expect to see the day when our library will be equipped with all the needed appliances to make it in fact, as in name, the people's college.

When the city gives you this added room,—and this cannot come too quickly,—it should also provide rooms for relics,

that future generations may here find object lessons that will teach them, as no books can, the record of the past, and will impress upon their minds the changes and the progress made since Massachusetts's first governor made his home on Ten Hills Farm, and launched the Blessing of the Bay on Mystic's sparkling waters.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN S. HAYES, *Librarian.*

December 26, 1893.

REPORT . . .

OF THE

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 77078
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1901

SOMERVILLE PUBLIC . . . LIBRARY . . 1894



TWENTY-SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY,

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE,

MASSACHUSETTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1894.

A. L. WINSHIP & CO., PRINTERS,
138 PEARL ST., BOSTON.
1895.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 77078
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1901

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, January 30, 1895.

Referred to the Committee on Printing, to be printed in the Annual Reports. Sent down for concurrence.

GEORGE I. VINCENT, *Clerk.*

IN COMMON COUNCIL, January 30, 1895.

Referred to the Committee on Printing, to be printed in the Annual Reports, in concurrence.

CHARLES S. ROBERTSON, *Clerk.*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

OF THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1894.

TRUSTEES.

Charles S. Lincoln.	Charles H. Brown.
J. Henry Flitner.	Elijah C. Clark.
Christopher E. Rymes.	John B. Viall.
James E. Whitaker.	Charles A. West.

J. Frank Wellington.

OFFICERS.

Charles S. Lincoln *President.*
John S. Hayes *Secretary.*

COMMITTEES.

Building and Grounds.— Rymes, Viall, Brown and Wellington.

Administration.— Whitaker, Wellington and Clark.

Books and Catalogues.— Lincoln, *ex officio*, Rymes, West, Viall, and Brown.

Finance.—Flitner, Clark, and Whitaker.

LIBRARIAN.

John S. Hayes.

ASSISTANTS.

Anna L. Stone. Mary J. Warren.

CATALOGUER.

F. Mabel Norcross.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR 1894.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1893	$ 23.36
Appropriation	6,500.00
Dog Licenses	2,710.90
Fines	320.82
Catalogues	12.40
	$9,567.48

DEBIT.

Books and Periodicals	$3,287.83
Binding	766.67
Covers $68.41, Cards $30.40	98.81
Printing, $67.35, Postal Cards, $30.00	97.35
Stationery	52.79
Salaries, Administrative department	3,086.87
" Cataloguing department	526.00
Branch office	100.00
Book Case and Furniture	140.38
Repairs	205.24
Express	184.20
Electric Lighting	403.18
Gas	4.99
Gas Fixtures	29.90
Water	29.00
Fuel	176.21
Insurance	142.50
Fireproof Safe	72.50
Disbursements	66.86
Picture Frames	24.42
Postage	31.00
Speaking Tubes and Telephone	19.10
Placque and Frame	9.00
Rubber Stamps	3.13
Balance to 1895	9.55
	$9,567.48

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

To the City Council of Somerville: —

Gentlemen, — As Trustees of the Public Library, we beg leave to give to your honorable Boards the following report: —

The work entrusted to us has needed and received sedulous care. We are more than ever impressed with its importance. As our city enlarges its prosperity, and its population multiplies, the public library has increased usefulness and breadth of influence. It has been our aim to improve all facilities for its wider and more practical use, so that our fellow-citizens of every age and in every walk of life might gain from it those advantages it was designed to furnish.

It is well known that ours is an unclassified library. As such it has subserved a useful purpose. But as the number of its volumes increases it becomes more apparent that many choice and valuable books do not become generally known to its patrons. This fact has become of such grave importance that during the past year we have very largely given our strength to a new and more accessible classification of the entire library. Such a classification, if it be complete and judicious, not only as to topics but also as to titles and authors, will enable those who wish to consult the library, to do so much more readily than at present. Connected with this classification it is proposed to inaugurate a careful system of cross references, by which the object of search will be more easily found. All this cannot be done without considerable labor and expense. But the value of the result will more than warrant the outlay. Much delay in the delivery of books will be avoided, and thus the convenience of the public better served. History, biography and fiction, being more frequently called for, will be placed near the delivery desk, and thus a more perfect distribution of books can be made. This system has been employed in other libraries with a very considerable saving of labor and time.

In connection with the new system of classification and delivery

of books, we have introduced information slips; and propose to give larger facility in the use of reference books, to make the reading room more complete, and to allow, with suitable restrictions, persons engaged in special or professional investigations freer range in taking books from the library.

At all times the librarian and his assistants will be ready to make suggestions, and give help to those who may seek to know what books are accessible for the study of any particular topic. This will make a legitimate use of the library more complete, since those who have especially to do with books may be justly supposed to know, in some general way at least, what they contain.

Just at this point, it is an interesting fact that the number of books added to the library during the past year, both by purchase and donation, surpasses that of any other year. Some of these books are of great value.

The use of the library by the public at large is steadily on the increase. The number of books taken out for home use the past year exceeded 106,000.

This enlargement of the library in the number of its books, and in the use of them, demands larger space, or a new method of shelving. Very careful attention has been given to this matter, and after much painstaking consideration, it was concluded that the present shelving room be changed into a stack room. This would add very largely to the book capacity of the room, and as the books would necessarily be more compact, the labor of reference and delivery would be very much lessened. It has been a source of great gratification that when the matter was brought to the attention of the city government, the response was so immediate and liberal that steps were taken at once in preparation for the much-needed change.

All this necessitates enlarged appropriations for the library. But it is confidently believed that our citizens will readily endorse any action which, in giving them better accommodation, will further the interest of all concerned.

It must be expected that as the library grows the expense of maintaining it must increase. The public should take pride in the fact that the growth of the city means not only material prosperity and additions to the census list, but growth in intellectual vigor and capacity.



It is a fact that is everywhere noticeable, especially in our larger towns and cities, that the citizens are not content with the meagre facilities and cramped space once deemed sufficient, but with larger and more generous views, erect substantial and commodious library buildings. As the poet sings, "The thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns."

Not only do cities and towns appear to vie with each other in erecting buildings for the better accommodation of the volumes that crowd the shelves, but the buildings to a large extent encourage sculpture and art, and provide quiet and sheltered alcoves where the student may consult such works, as under ordinary conditions could not be conveniently used.

Yet, let it be said, that while public libraries have come to be considered as institutions of large educational value, it is nevertheless true that in many instances they are not used to the extent they should be. We venture to suggest that the teachers of our public schools would further the interests of education in this city to a well-nigh incalculable extent, if they would bring the school into closer contact with the library. If the teachers and the friends of our free public school system would make a study of our library, they would learn without difficulty that the studies in the schools would become more interesting and valuable if the scholars were induced to read books our library could furnish, which bear more or less directly upon their studies. In making this suggestion, without the slightest purpose to interfere with the judgment of those who have the interests of our public schools especially in their charge, we venture to add, in our own behalf, what we deem to be of great importance.

There can be no question but that every institution has its own peculiar influence, character and possibility. There are few organizations that deserves more serious consideration than the public library, and it may be added that few are more beset with perplexities. The public library of any age marks the civilization of that age.

It is impossible for us to guard this trust given into our hands too cautiously, neither can we fulfil the duties it brings with it without constant study of its character and needs. Let it be understood that a well-equipped public library is not a mere collection of books. It must be a reservoir of general literature, embracing history, philosophy, science and art. The books to be selected must be such as

shall suit the old and the young, those who seek instruction, and those who wish only entertainment. The library is for the *public*, and must fit the conditions of the public need, not of any class or age. Its range must be as comprehensive as its resources will permit. Only thus can it be educational in the finest, truest sense of that word. Its first aim should be to encourage a taste for reading, and then guide that taste till the mere reader becomes a student, for reading is not so important as thought. Mere reading tends to mental dissipation. It is opium by which to get unreal visions, and so forgetfulness. It soothes to languor; it gives lassitude for energy; it forgets the real world to create another which is only a mirage. Yet all taste for literature must begin from the habit of reading, and that habit should be cultivated among the young. Just here arises serious perplexity. That is, to find books that will interest and yet not be mischievous. Perhaps in no other department of the library has more conscientious scrutiny been exercised than in the selection of works of fiction. In this class of literature this age is remarkably prolific. Yet, however critical the care in examining the books themselves, and in passing judgment on the opinion of those who write reviews and book notices, it is exceedingly difficult to determine in every instance as to the merits or demerits of every book. Then again, there must be some latitude in deferring to the opinions of those who are certainly competent to judge in other matters, and who might desire a class of works which would be representative of different phases of thought, or faith, or life. The stream of life never rises higher than its source. Nevertheless, books may be, will be admitted which are not profitable to all.

Here it may be said that much may be left to the discretion of our librarian. Nevertheless, this must not be altogether relied upon. While it is doubtless true, that large responsibility rests upon those into whose hands the library has been entrusted, for breadth and comprehensiveness, so that all topics may be fairly represented, and while it is also true that such responsibility embraces the literary style, power, and intellectual and moral character of those books classed as "light literature," yet it cannot be too emphatically stated that this does not relieve the parent or guardian from determining the range of reading children should have. All books are not for all people. The literature of one century may invite the studious attention of a scholar, and yet be by no means suitable for the school or the home.

The board of trustees and the librarian must exercise diligent care that the selection of books be wise and wholesome; but this must not be held to excuse the parent, guardian or teacher from his or her responsibility. Our children and youth must be as carefully restrained and directed in the use of the books of the public library, as in any other direction. Look out for the springs of life that the stream may run clear. It should never be forgotten that the real germ is hidden in the bud. The child holds the possibility of what shall be the man or woman.

It will be found that the report of our librarian, John S. Hayes, has peculiar interest, in view of what we have already stated, and we incorporate it as a part of this report, as it gives an admirable *resumé* of the condition, growth, aims, possibilities and needs of the library, and the work that has been carried on by him since his election. It contains much valuable information and, in connection with his last report, gives a history of the library from its origin to the present time.

The trustees are pleased in being able to say that the work of our present librarian promises to be of very great value to the community. He has been assiduous in his labors, and untiring in his zeal. We are pleased also to add, that his assistants have creditably co-operated with him and have discharged their duties with great fidelity.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES S. LINCOLN, *Chairman.*

January 28, 1895.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library: —

Gentlemen, — In compliance with your by-laws, it becomes my duty to place in your hands this, my second report, as the twenty-second annual report of the librarian, covering the operations of the library for the year 1894.

The library has received the generous support of the city government and the public, and has responded to all calls made upon it, as best it could under the circumstances. It is a pleasure to record the fact that the circulation of books has been greater the past year than in any other year since the library was established, notwithstanding the fact that for the first time in its history the figures representing its circulation during the last six months mean actual circulation, without the addition of renewals, whereas up to that time every book renewed, counted as being taken out *twice*, when as a matter of fact it had left the library but once.

STATISTICS.

The whole number of books placed in the library since it was founded in 1872, as recorded in the Accession Catalogue, is 27,729 — and the number worn out, lost, and withdrawn, as nearly as can be ascertained, during this same period has been 2,592 volumes, making the number of books in the library at the present time, 25,137. This does not include many volumes in the public document room, nor about 1,000 volumes in the duplicate room, which have never been entered in the Accession Catalogue, but are available in exchange for books needed, and for replacement.

During the year you have added 2,860 volumes, while 146 have been worn out, lost, or withdrawn. Of the number added, 216 volumes were from donations, and 2,644 volumes by purchase and

binding of serials. The number added during the year exceeds by over 1,000 volumes the number added during any other year since the library was opened to the public.

It may be of interest to note the additions of books to the library each year since it was started, as found recorded in the Accession Catalogue. These figures denote the *total* accessions, and include the volumes worn out, lost, or withdrawn.

The library was open to the public May 1, 1873, with 2,384 volumes on its shelves.

	Added Each Year.	Accession No. Dec. 31, of Each Year.
Volumes May 1, 1873 . . .	2,384	
Added during 1873 . . .	1,251	3,635
" 1874 . . .	1,027	4,662
" 1875 . . .	573	5,235
" 1876 . . .	602	5,837
" 1877 . . .	853	6,690
" 1878 . . .	749	7,439
" 1879 . . .	515	7,954
" 1880 . . .	660	8,614
" 1881 . . .	668	9,282
" 1882 . . .	770	10,052
" 1883 . . .	913	10,965
" 1884 . . .	859	11,824
" 1885 . . .	964	12,788
" 1886 . . .	1,150	13,938
" 1887 . . .	1,165	15,103
" 1888 . . .	1,846	16,949
" 1889 . . .	1,346	18,295
" 1890 . . .	1,817	20,112
" 1891 . . .	1,432	21,544
" 1892 . . .	1,648	23,192
" 1893 . . .	1,677	24,869
" 1894 . . .	2,860	27,729
Total number Dec. 31, 1894 .	27,729 volumes.	

It will be noticed that during the first five years there were added an average of 861 volumes each year; during the next five years an

average of 672 volumes each year; during the third period of five years, an average of 1,010 volumes each year, and during the fourth period, an average of 1,618 volumes each year. In the year 1893, 1,677 volumes were added, and the present year, 2,860 volumes.

As the city increases in population, and the volumes become worn out, it will be absolutely necessary to increase the annual additions if the usefulness of the library remains unimpaired.

The library has been open to the public 304 days during the past year, and 106,341 books have been given out for home use, a daily average of 350. The largest number given out in one day was April 14, 1,062. The largest number in one month was in April, 12,505; the smallest number was in August, 6,525.

There were distributed through the agency in West Somerville, 8,229 volumes, and by the East Somerville agency, 5,100 volumes.

The number of library cards in use at the present time is about 5,538, of which 923 have been issued during the present year.

VALUABLE ADDITIONS.

Among the more costly books added to the reference library are:

Old Colony Historical Society collections. Complete, 14 vols.
Maine Historical Society collections. Complete, 8 vols.
Connecticut Historical Proceedings. Complete, 3 vols.
Contributions of the old residents of Lowell. Complete, 5 vols.
Duneker's History of Antiquity. 5 vols.
History of the 13th regiment Massachusetts Volunteers.
" " 52d " "
" " 54th " "
Adj. General's Report of N. H. during the Rebellion. 6 vols.
Modern Machine Shop Practice. 2 vols.
Acts and Resolves of Mass., 1781-1785. 4 vols.
" " " Bay Colony.
Scribner's Statistical Atlas U. S.
Shaler's U. S. of America. 2 vols.
Map of American Politics.
Cushing's Anonyms. 4 vols.
Catalogue Boston Athenæum. 5 vols.
Journals of Washington. 3 vols.

Bartlett's Concordance of Shakespeare.
Bradshaw's Concordance to Milton.
Allen's American Book-Plates.
History of Suffolk County. 4 vols.
Dictionary of National Biography, A-N. 40 vols.
History of the First Maine Cavalry.
Portraits in Plaster.
America's Wonderland.
Larned's History for ready reference. 5 vols.
Bradford's History of Mass.

For general circulation we have added:
Bagehot's Complete Works. 5 vols.
Hospitals, Dispensaries and Nursing. Ed. by Billings and Hurd.
World's Parliament of Religion.
Conversations of Lord Byron.
Dillon's Laws and Jurisprudence of England and America.
Thomas Jefferson's Works.
Curtis's Orations and Addresses.
Hittell's Mankind in Ancient Times. 4 vols.
Mrs. Green's Town Life in the XV. Century. 2 vols.
Letters of Harriet Countess Granville.
Porcupine's Works. Complete, 12 vols.
Spark's Diplomatic Correspondence. 19 vols.
Abraham Lincoln's Complete Works. 2 vols.
Conway's Climbing the Himalayas.
Wharton's Diplomatic Correspondence of the American Revolution. 6 vols.
Memoirs of Edmund Ludlow. 2 vols.
History of Trades Unionism.
Wilson's Cyclopædia Photography.
The Industries of Russia. 5 vols.
Memoirs of Baron de Meneval. 3 vols.
Didon's Life of Christ. 2 vols.
Bonney's Story of One Planet.
Studies in Historical and Political Science. 25 vols.
Cambridge Bible for Schools, with notes. 35 vols.
Glacial Geology of Great Britain.

Masson's Napoleon at Home.
History of England under Henry IV.
Memoirs of the International Congress of Anthropology.
Flammarion's Popular Astronomy.
Geology, Chemical, Physical and Strategraphical.
Erman's Life in Ancient Egypt.
Simcox's Primitive Civilization. 2 vols.
American Journal of Microscopy. Complete, 10 vols.
Appleton's Journal. Complete, 24 vols.
Our Young Folks. (Magazine). Complete, 9 vols.
Andover Review. Complete, 19 vols.
Review of Reviews. (From the beginning.)
Cosmopolitan Magazine.
Gleason's Pictorial Magazine.

DONATIONS.

During the year the library has received as gifts 1,492 bound volumes, 713 pamphlets, 1,399 numbers of periodicals, and one picture. Of the bound volumes received, we have entered in the Accession Catalogue and placed on the shelves of the library *only* 216 volumes, as it was decided best to reserve these books for the new classification, as the time of the cataloguers could be more profitably employed on the books now in the circulating library, and, besides, the shelf room available in the main room was needed for the new books.

The Boston Public Library presented 1,150 volumes from its duplicates, among which were many rare and valuable books. Charles S. Lincoln, Charles A. West, and Charles H. Brown, of the Board of Trustees, have each given many books and periodicals, which will aid us in completing our sets of books and magazines. Dr. Eben Jackson presented a fine copy of "Schools and School Boys of old Boston," and the Somerville Journal Company, 58 bound volumes, 38 pamphlets, and 104 periodicals; Geo. O. Proctor, 26 volumes, and P. M. Harwood, a fine large photograph of a part of the "Ancient Earthworks of Somerville," richly framed, which can be seen in the Americana room. The heirs of the noted historian, the late Francis Parkman, presented to this library his copy of the Boston Athenæum

library catalogue, in two large volumes, a work of intrinsic value, which will be highly prized, coming as it does from Mr. Parkman's private library, and containing his autograph.

LIST OF DONATIONS.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Periodicals.
Adams, Mrs. Lucy M.			12
American Citizen			32
Ames, Geo. A., Lowell	1		
Amherst College		7	
Bohemian Voice			12
Boston Public Library	1,150	2	14
Bingham, N. W.	1		
Brigham, C. H.		180	
Broadway Central Hotel, N. Y.		1	
Brooklyn Public Library			1
Brooks, E. S.	2		330
Brown, C. H.	75	248	
Brockton Enterprise		1	
Cambridge Public Library		1	
Carpenter, A. F.	1		
Chicago Public Library		1	
Christian Register			52
Cilley, J. P.		2	
Cincinnati Public Library		1	
Citizen Publishing Co.			52
City of Somerville	1		
Clerc, P. M.	1		
Clinton Public Library		1	
Crane, D. F.	1		
Danvers Peabody Institute		1	
DeCosta, Rev. B. F.	2	7	
Dike, Rev. S. W.		2	
Dover Public Library		1	
Duddy, Robert	1		
Eaton, Clifford			20
Ellinger, William, Va.		1	
Elliot, C. D.	2	2	
Elliot, Miss Mary E.	1		
Ewing, Thos., N. Y.		1	
Fall River Public Library		1	
Field, Mrs. L. A.			12
Young People's Society Christian Endeavor, First Universalist Church			64
Fitchburg Public Library		1	
Flint, Warren F.	10		
Folsom, Channing	1		
Free Library of Philadelphia		1	
Galpin, Mrs. Barbara		4	
Giles, Jos. J.	4		
Glines, A. W.			12

LIST OF DONATIONS.—*Continued.*

	Vols.	Pamph.	Periodicals.
Gordon, Geo. A.		1	1
Grand Rapids, Mich., Board of Trade		1	
Green, Dr. S. A.		2	
Hallet & Davis	1		
Harvard College	1		
Harwood, P. M., "Ancient Earthworks of Somerville," picture and frame.			
Hawes, F. M.	1		
Hayes, J. S.	7	2	
Hayes, Miss L. Y.	1		
Hills, Thos.		1	
Home Market Club		10	12
Hunnewell, J. F.	1		
Indian Rights Association		1	
Jackson, Dr. Eben	1		
Jones, Wm. P.		6	
Kelsey, E. E.		2	
Kimball, F. M.	5	3	
Lancaster Public Library		1	
Lincoln, C. S.	10		245
Lodge, Hon. H. C.	14		
Los Angeles Public Library		4	
Lynn Public Library		1	
McCall, Hon. S. W.	1		
Mairnonides Library, N. Y. City		1	
Malden Public Library		1	
Mass. Convention of Universalists		1	
Mass. Society Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	1		
Medford High School Association		1	
Melrose Public Library		1	
Merriam, Miss M. B.			12
Milwaukee Public Library		1	
Mt. Holyoke College		1	
National Civil Reform League		1	
Newark Public Library	2		
N. H. State Library	1		
New London Public Library	1		
Newton Public Library		1	
New York Teachers' College		2	
North Adams Public Library		1	
Osgood, Warren	1		
Otis Library, Norwich, Conn.		1	
Parkman, Francis, heirs of	5		
Pattee & Co., Los Angeles, Cal.		8	
Peabody Institute Library		1	
Portland, Or., Public Library		2	3
Pratt, R. D.	2		
Prince Society, Boston		2	
Proctor, Geo. O.	26		
Redwood Library, Newport		1	
St. Louis Mercantile Library		1	

LIST OF DONATIONS.—*Continued.*

	Vols.	Pamph.	Periodicals.
Salem Public Library		1	12
Sanborn, Miss H. J.	1		
Sanford, P. B.	1		
Scranton Public Library		3	
Seaver, E. P.	1		
Springfield Public Library		1	12
State of Massachusetts	34		
State Supt. of Schools, Wis.		1	
Stone, E. A.	4		
Socialist Annual		1	
Somerville Journal Co.	58	38	104
Somerville Y. M. C. A.		6	
The People, New York			16
Thompson, B. F.	1		
Thomson, John, Phila.		1	
Travellers' Insurance Co.			12
Trustees for children of Shalem, Dona Anna, New Mex.	1		
Trustees Public Reservation		1	
Tufts College		5	
Tuftonian, Tufts College			15
Union Pacific Railroad	1		
United Societies. Manifesto			12
United States Government	32	120	
Vincent, Geo. I.	3	1	
Watertown Public Library		1	
Wellington, J. F.	2		
Wentworth, T. S.	1	1	
West, C. A.	12		250
Winship, Geo.		1	
Woods, H. F.	1		
Worcester Public Library	3		80

I would again repeat what was said in my last report, "It is hoped that the example set by these generous donors will be followed by others, and that many books, pamphlets and periodicals that are now lying unused in many a household will be sent here, and either be put into circulation, or, if they should be duplicates of those we now have be exchanged by us for books we need."

NEW STACK ROOM.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of this library, held April 30, it was voted:—"That the Committee on Buildings and Grounds and the Librarian be authorized to obtain plans, specifications, and

estimates for changing the book room into a stack room, and report to this board." This committee, after visiting other libraries, thoroughly studying all the questions involved as to the present and future needs of the library, and the prospective enlargement of the building at no distant day, invited three leading firms engaged in the manufacture of library stacks, to submit plans embodying the ideas which the committee had in view, namely: To make the present book room into a stack room capable of holding at least 60,000 volumes, and so constructed that it would be equally available in the building as now constructed and used, or in that reconstructed building that must come in the future, when adequate provision is made for the work this library should do, as outlined in last year's report.

This committee made their report at a meeting held June 2, and recommended that the plans and specifications submitted by A. B. & W. T. Westervelt, of New York, be adopted, and that it would cost about $6,000 to make the proposed change. It was unanimously voted: "That the secretary of this Board communicate the action of this board to the City Council, and ask for a special appropriation of $6,000, to change the present book room into a steel stack room."

I appeared before the Finance Committee of the City Council, by invitation, with the plans for the proposed change, and explained the urgent need of more shelf room, so that we could classify the books and reorganize the library. It was understood by the members of the city government that we did not intend to use this money until next year, as it would take a year for us to classify and catalogue the books and prepare for the change, but that the trustees did not feel justified in continuing the work of reorganizing the library, unless they were assured by the City Council that the money for the alterations would be available when needed.

At meetings of the Board of Aldermen and the Common Council held June 13, an order was passed appropriating, for public library improvement, for increased accommodation for books, $3,000,and the order was approved by the Mayor, June 15.

It appears that the full sum asked for by this board was not appropriated at that time, because the City Council only had about $3,000 at their disposal, which they placed to the credit of Public Library Improvement, feeling confident that next year's city government would

complete the appropriation. We have, therefore, at the city hall, the sum of $3,000, and there is no reason to doubt that at an early day next year's City Council will vote the remaining $3,000.

This prompt and liberal action of the city government assured this board that they would be justified in proceeding with the work of classifying and recataloguing the books, and it is hoped and expected that by the first of next September, our library will not only be amply supplied with shelf room, but that we shall have a new Finding List printed of all the books, arranged by classes, under authors and titles, and a new card catalogue containing subjects, authors, titles and cross references, well under way.

DESCRIPTION OF STACK.

The exterior of the building will be changed in book-stack wing only, by increasing window area. The present windows are to be elongated by adding two sashes at bottom, having a panel between the present sill and top of new windows, which will improve the appearance of the structure. The interior structure is not to be changed, there being sufficient height to accommodate the second tier of book stacks.

The new stacks are of light construction of steel, and will be two stories high, with heavy glass plates for second floor, and access to the same will be by two sets of iron stairs, one at each end.

A large book-lift is to be put in at the rear of this second book-stack floor, to the basement, where the packing, unpacking and repairing of books will be done. In the front will be a small book-lift from near the delivery desk to the second floor.

The present wooden cases are clumsy compared with the steel stacks, which are well designed and have ornamental facias, and the patent device for interchangeable shelving is not only more economical, but admits of better classification.

The present upper floor will have to be extended under the old wall shelving, which is to be removed. The second floor of the book stack has an ornamental front, and gallery rail. The new stack being open-work in all parts, admits a free circulation of air through all the shelves, and over all the books, equalizing the temperature, and thereby tends to preserve them.

SHELF ROOM.

The amount of shelving for books in this library at the present time is about 3,725 linear feet. Allowing an average of eight and one-half books to each foot of shelf room, which seems to be the amount of space generally agreed upon by librarians, the total capacity of the library, assuming that every inch of shelving could be utilized, would be 31,662 volumes, distributed as follows:

Book room	23,587 volumes
Americana room	1,020 "
Magazine room	1,513 "
Public document room	3,714 "
Reference room	1,820 "

The new stack alone, if completed as planned, would hold 60,000 volumes.

The 18 book cases, now in the book room, each capable of holding 1,000 volumes, are to be distributed in the other rooms of the building. Then the book capacity of this building will be as follows:

Stack room	60,000 volumes
Americana room	1,020 "
Magazine room	1,513 "
Public document room	3,714 "
Reference room	1,820 "
Book cases	18,000 "

A total of over 86,000 volumes, or 54,000 volumes more than at the present time. How many years of growth will be required for the library to reach this limit of 86,000 volumes is a problem we need not now consider. But at no distant day, you must consider and solve the problem of furnishing generous, ample rooms for the following purposes: General delivery, and a card catalogue; reading room, worthy of the name; reference room large enough for the needs of this constantly-growing city; rooms for individual research and study; room for cataloguing; room for covering and repairing books; rooms for relics; art rooms; music rooms; and classrooms.

The world is moving. Public library work is in its infancy, and

its future possibilities are immeasurable. Somerville may lead or follow, but the movement is onward, and will broaden out and occupy new and more important fields of usefulness.

CATALOGUES, OR FINDING LISTS.

Should a person desire to ascertain whether our library contains a certain book, at the present time, he would have to consult *fifteen* lists, thus making it necessary to look through fifteen alphabets before he would be certain that the desired book is not in the library.

All books in the library bought before May 1, 1894, are entered either in the catalogue of 1888, or the supplements of 1889, 1891, or the Somerville *Journal* supplement of 1894. All books purchased since last May are entered in Bulletins 1 to 11, second series, also in the general card catalogue.

The difficulty of finding a book in a large library that depends solely on printed lists, is so great that the average mortal gives up in despair, and will take anything he can get rather than fathom the depths of the mysteries of printed catalogues, supplements, bulletins, and finding lists, particularly if they have become as numerous as they are in our library. "It requires resolution and perseverance to get on terms with a big library, and the expenditure of time involved is more than a busy man can afford. It occurred to some enemy of the human race to invent catalogues of the ordinary type. The true bibliophile soon acquires a profound distrust and suspicion of these works. They are a fruitful source of cerebral irritation, headache, and biliousness."

Printed catalogues soon get out of date; new ones must be prepared, and they are very expensive.

As soon as we complete the present classification of books and give them their new position on the shelves, every call number will be changed, and no list now in existence will aid one in finding any particular book. We must prepare new ones.

The card catalogue is the ideal catalogue in many respects. It is always up to date, and when arranged under classes, subjects, titles, authors, and cross references, with bibliographical notes, is of incalculable value. But a card catalogue for the use of the general public must be displayed in a large room so that many persons can consult it at the same time. A card catalogue has its limitations and its own particular field.

I am confident that this library cannot satisfy the demands of the public with a card catalogue *alone*. Many persons use the library who seldom come to this building themselves; a large number of books are distributed through the two agencies; school children become messengers, and these patrons demand lists that they can consult at home.

Instead of the customary printed catalogue, I would recommend a printed finding list of all of the books in the library, arranged under classes, by titles and by authors, using, as far as practicable, short titles, with a full index, or table of contents. I would have it so arranged that the several classes of books could be bound up separately if thought desirable. A finding list of this character would cost at least $2,000, and a special appropriation should be made by the City Council to pay for it.

REBINDING.

During the past year 1,838 volumes have been sent to the bindery, and each year this number must be larger as the library grows in size and in age, consequently the bills for rebinding will necessarily increase, and this fact should be considered by the City Council in making its annual appropriation. Of this number, 1,410 volumes were books from the circulating department, and 428 volumes were magazines.

Among the latter were complete sets of the Atlantic, Harper, Century, Scribner, Appleton, and St. Nicholas, bound in one-half morocco for the reference library.

FRENCH AND GERMAN BOOKS.

During the year 95 volumes printed in the French language have been placed in the library, not only for the benefit of our French population, which is sufficiently numerous to make it desirable to supply these books, but for that constantly-increasing class of Americans who have studied the language, read it easily, and are glad to obtain works which represent and illustrate the several classes of French literature.

The frequent calls for these books indicate that they were needed and are appreciated by readers or students of the language.

The same reasons that lead to the introduction of books in the

French language into the library, apply with equal or stronger force to books in the German language, and I suggest if the funds at your disposal will permit, that during the coming year an alcove of books in the German language be started.

RENEWALS.

In my report last year I took occasion to call your attention to the fact that all of the books of fiction, juvenile books, some works of travel, histories, and many other books in the library, were marked to circulate only seven days, and the by-laws did not allow books so marked renewed, and expressed the opinion that with the possible exception of works of fiction and some small books, one week was too short a period to devote to a good book, and thought the patrons of the library would appreciate having as few seven-day books as possible, and that it would, in my judgment, be wise to make *all* books that have been in the circulating library one year, fourteen-day books, perhaps not allowing works of fiction and juveniles to be renewed.

The question how long a book may be permitted to remain in the hands of a reader before it must be returned to the library so that another reader can obtain it, is a very serious and troublesome one in a small library, with a large constituency. And this library comes under this head, for we have in our circulating department only about one book for three inhabitants.

Under the by-laws above referred to, a book marked "seven-day" could enter fifty-two families in one year, while a fourteen-day book could be used but thirteen times, if each person taking it kept it the full time permitted by the rule. A careful consideration of the old rule, by this Board, led to the adoption of the following in its place:

"ARTICLE XI. All books shall be fourteen-day books, unless otherwise designated, and no book shall be retained longer than the time prescribed.

ARTICLE XII. No renewal of any book shall be made till the volume has remained in the library one full day from its return."

By these new rules, all books, unless plainly marked to the contrary, can be retained fourteen days and no more, and cannot be renewed, or transferred from one card to another, so as to remain in the same household for a longer period.

At the present time, new and popular works of fiction and a few other small books are marked "seven-day," but the number of seven-day books in the library is relatively very small. It may be desirable to mark some of the larger works "twenty-one or twenty-eight-day," but up to the present time all books are either seven-day or fourteen-day books.

The new rule seems to be working well, and is giving general satisfaction so far as I am able to learn.

REREGISTRATION.

At a meeting of this Board held November 26, it was voted: "That the Librarian be instructed to have a reregistration of all the patrons of this library at his earliest convenience."

The common experience of public libraries has shown that a new registration at least as often as once in five years is almost a necessity. The practice of the various libraries as to frequency, extent or duration, is not at all uniform. Most of the newer libraries, and many of the older, have found it best to limit the period of registration, and consequent life of the library card, to terms of either two or three years, usually the former; a few have adopted five years as the limit.

The advantage of prompt notification in case of overdue books, that is, those kept beyond the loan period provided by the rules of the library, has long been understood; and losses to the library are greatly lessened when such practice is promptly followed. But the first requisite to effective notice is to have the correct address of the delinquent. Long terms of registration are not conducive to accuracy in that respect, owing to the very large percentage of persons who neglect to give the required notice to the library of any change of residence, and this defect is more evident in the case of the two persons who recommended the card-holder, and who are in a certain sense morally responsible, at least, for his neglect.

Of the volumes reported as not recovered from readers at this library, nearly every one represents the loan to some reader who at the time when his card was issued to him was living at the street and number at which his registration locates him, but who at the time when the missing book was issued to him was no longer living there, and could not be traced farther.

Our best safeguard against the loss of books, is a vigilant oversight on the part of the Librarian in sending for overdue books, and to do this promptly and successfully it is necessary to have the correct address of the card-holder and his recommenders.

Reregistration means a large amount of work for the library force, and a certain amount of annoyance to the book-takers, but neither of these need be excessive under a proper system, and I trust we may be able to carry out your instruction of November 26, without seriously interfering with the regular work of the library, or interrupting the continuous taking out of books by our patrons.

CASE FOR NEW BOOKS.

The time has not arrived when it seems practicable to recommend that the patrons of the library should be admitted to the book room to examine and select their own books, neither do I consider it worth the time to give the arguments for or against this plan. I would, however, suggest for your consideration, that a book-case be placed either in the delivery room or in the reading room, easy of access to the public, and that on its open shelves all new books be placed, that they may be handled and examined by readers at their leisure, or taken by them, after being charged on their card, for home use. This would "give access to the shelves" so far as new books are concerned, and I am confident that this privilege would be appreciated, and that it would immediately put into circulation many books that would not be called for, were readers only directed to them by seeing their titles on the bulletin board or in the local papers.

If it were found, after trial, that this method of exposing new books did not work satisfactorily or that the privilege was abused, it would be an easy matter to discontinue it.

I also suggest that a case of reference books, such as encyclopædias, unabridged dictionaries, biographical dictionary, Lippincott's Gazetteer, Brewer's Handbooks, etc., be placed in the reading room for readers to consult at their pleasure.

INFORMATION SLIPS.

It seems to me that one of the most important duties that the Librarian should perform is to assist readers and students in their

search for books and information in connection with their reading and study. And I desire all persons to feel and to exercise the utmost freedom in calling on me for any assistance or advice which I may be thought to be able to give.

I have placed in the delivery room this notice: "It is hoped that those who make use of the library will have no hesitancy in consulting the Librarian and assistants in all matters upon which information is needed. Inquiries regarding special subjects of study are always invited, and will receive careful attention. Information slips can be obtained at the desk."

It is very gratifying to report that many have accepted the invitation, and fully appreciate all assistance rendered. While freely giving all the information in our power, our constant aim should be to assist readers to search for themselves, after directing them to the source from which the information can be obtained.

If we are not able to give the information required, at the time the request is made, we mail it as soon as it is obtained.

Next to supplying the books themselves, it seems to me the most important work we can do is to judiciously guide and assist readers in the selection and use of books.

In the line of this kind of work, we have published in the local papers and have distributed special reading lists, not only giving the titles, authors, and shelf numbers of some of the books on the subject, but calling attention to articles in the periodicals that should be read.

These are among the subjects bulletined: —

Sandwich Islands and Hawaii.
Books for Boys (with helpful notes about each book).
Political Science.
Protection and Free Trade.
Labor and Trades Unions.
Edward Everett Hale.
Money and Finance.
Books Relating to Unconventional Journeys.
Books of Nature for Summer Reading.
Summer Sports and Out-door Exercises.
Mountain Expeditions.
Yachts and Yachting.
Corea, China and Japan.

TWO-BOOK CARD.

Several libraries in this country, and some abroad, allow two books to be taken on one card. Wherever tried it has been found to be a great convenience, and has given general satisfaction to the public.

The card now in use in the Brookline Public Library contains the following instructions: "Borrowers may take two books at the same time, provided that not more than one of these shall be a work of fiction, and that two new books shall not be taken." The card is divided in the middle; the left side has "Fiction" at the top, the right side "Other works."

This arrangement permits a dessert with the meats, and gives a person opportunity of tasting of the notable literature of the day without giving up the delightful novel. It will reduce the time now spent by the reader in obtaining and returning his books, and would ultimately lead to a wider and more profitable range in his reading. I would recommend that it be given a trial in this library.

CONCLUSION.

In closing this report, I desire to express my grateful appreciation of the cordial good will and support that have been given me, not only by every member of this Board of Trustees, but by those who to so large an extent help to educate public opinion,— our local press. In many instances much help has been derived from it, not only directly by kindly criticism or commendation and by publishing our bulletins of new books and reading lists, but indirectly by calling particular attention to books included in our catalogues, or by introducing topics which have induced the reader to consult books in the library. This is as it should be. The library and the newspaper should be mutually helpful, and both seek for the furtherance of public intelligence and good morals.

But, gentlemen, it is from your hands I have had the most immediate assistance and cheer. The careful, candid consideration that you have ever given to all my suggestions and plans, has given me added strength and fresh courage. Your hearty co-operation and well-matured advice has lightened my burdens and lessened my labors, and if during my administration, as the executive head of this library, any

improvements have been made, and the library has been placed in closer touch with the people, or our books have exerted a greater educational force in this community, to you, largely, the credit belongs.

We have consulted together freely, and if our conclusions have not always been wise, certainly that cannot be chargeable to any lack of painstaking care on your part. Differences of opinion must be expected, and are not always undesirable. Mistakes cannot be invariably avoided, but so long as there is an underlying sense of moral responsibility, the work as a whole must prove substantially praiseworthy.

The ideal library has yet to be created, and it must be of gradual growth, the result of careful thought, united effort, and hard work — continued through many years. Our ideal may never be realized, but with a vigorous purpose to make use of all the means and material furnished us, an advance must be made which shall give better and still better results. We can, at least, keep in mind Browning's invigorating declaration :

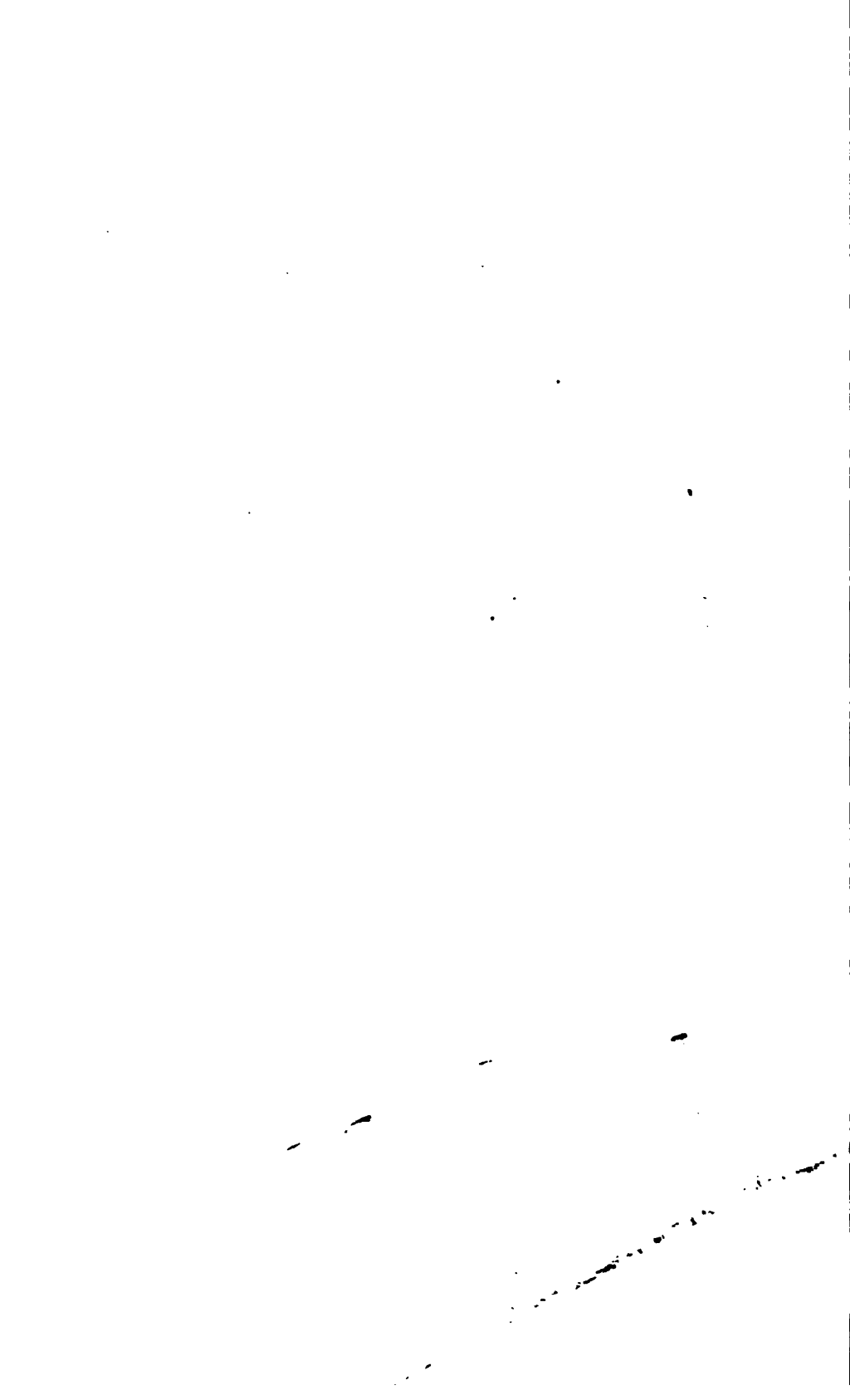
" 'T is not what man does which exalts him, but what man would do."

And so with eager activity and zeal we may be faithful to our trust by putting ourselves into our work. Only such work deserves the praise of others, or the plaudits of our conscience. When Phidias, the great Grecian artist, made the shield of Minerva, he wrought his own image into the shield.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN S. HAYES, *Librarian.*

December 31, 1894.



CITY LIB'Y ASS'N SP'GF'LD, MASS.
THE INTERCHANGE.

p. 211 cost 3 cataloging &c

23 Report . .

of the

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 77290
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1901

Somerville Public . . Library .

1895

DUP.EXCH. MAR. 1901
SPRINGFIELD CITY LIB.

TWENTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Compliments of

JOHN S. HAYES,

Librarian,

SOMERVILLE, MASS.



BOSTON:
AMERICAN PRINTING AND ENGRAVING CO.
50 Arch Street.
1896.

TWENTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY,

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE,

MASSACHUSETTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1895.



BOSTON:
AMERICAN PRINTING AND ENGRAVING CO.
50 Arch Street.
1896.

P 77290
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1901

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, February 12, 1896.

Referred to the Committee on Printing, to be printed in the Annual Reports. Sent down for concurrence.

GEORGE I. VINCENT, *Clerk.*

IN COMMON COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 13, 1896.

Referred to the Committee on Printing, to be printed in the Annual Reports, in concurrence.

CHARLES S. ROBERTSON, *Clerk.*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

OF THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1895.

TRUSTEES.

CHARLES S. LINCOLN . ELIJAH C. CLARK.
J. HENRY FLITNER. JOHN B. VIALL.
CHRISTOPHER E. RYMES. CHARLES A. WEST.
CHARLES H. BROWN. J. FRANK WELLINGTON.
CHARLES W. SAWYER.

OFFICERS.

CHARLES S. LINCOLN *President.*
JOHN S. HAYES *Secretary.*

COMMITTEES.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS.— Rymes, Viall, Brown and Wellington.
ADMINISTRATION.— Sawyer, Wellington and Clark.
BOOKS AND CATALOGUES.— Lincoln, *ex officio*, Rymes, West, Viall, and Brown.
FINANCE.— Flitner, Clark and Sawyer.

LIBRARIAN.

JOHN S. HAYES.

ASSISTANTS.

ANNA L. STONE. MARY J. WARREN.

CATALOGUER.

F. MABEL NORCROSS.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR 1895.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1894	$ 9.55
Appropriation	6,500.00
Dog Licenses	2,693.51
Fines	148.02
Catalogues	61.75
Book sold	14.00
	$9,426.83

DEBIT.

Books and periodicals	$2,868.49	
Binding	692.67	
Covers and paper $51.24, cards $53.54	104.78	
Printing, 70.35, postal cards, $20.00	90.35	
Stationery	49.20	
Salaries, Administrative department	2,938.77	
" Cataloguing department	1,515.58	
Branch office	75.00	
Furniture	30.60	
Repairs	39.62	
Express	90.25	
Electric lighting	64.22	
Gas	105.27	
Incidentals	7.00	
Water	24.00	
Fuel	58.23	
Insurance	225.00	
Card catalogue cabinet	125.00	
Disbursements	15.75	
Picture frames	13.51	
Postage	25.00	
Printing supplement of 1894	100.00	
Book Pockets	46.30	
Rubber Stamps	1.90	
Balance to 1896	120.34	
		$9,426.83

PUBLIC LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1894	$3,000.00
Appropriation	3,000.00
	$6,000.00

DEBIT.

A. B. & W. I. Westervelt contract	$3,945.00	
F. C. Fuller & Co. contract	650.71	
Painting and varnishing	457.45	
Electric light wiring and fixtures for stack-room	298.74	
Gas fixtures for stack-room	150.18	
Electric lighting for gas	69.76	
Boxes for storing books	34.55	
Insurance	49.05	
Plans and architects' fees	40.00	
Furniture	91.07	
Labor, etc.	90.69	
Carpenters' bills	55.38	
Grills for delivery desk	35.00	
Balance to 1896	32.42	
		$6,000.00

CITY LIB'Y ASS'N SP'GF'LD, MASS.
THE INTERCHANGE.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

To the Board of Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Somerville:—

Gentlemen,—The Trustees of the Public Library beg leave to submit their annual report to your honorable Boards, together with the report of the librarian. We desire to call special attention to the latter report, since it gives more in detail matters affecting the history and work of the library, and also because it will probably be deemed best in the future to make such report, having the endorsement of the Board of Trustees, all it will be necessary to submit for your consideration. This would have been done this year, were it not that the considerable changes, made possible by the wise generosity of the city government, should have in our judgment our emphatic approval.

At the very outset, therefore, we wish to express our entire satisfaction with the work projected and accomplished by our able librarian and his faithful corps of assistants. The difficulty in the way of such work has been considerable, and at times serious. But we take great pleasure in stating that it has been eminently successful. So much so, that we can point with pride to our Public Library, with the confident expectation that if the same liberal policy is had in the future, its usefulness will be demonstrated. Such liberal policy is a matter of necessity. The acquisition of books during the past year has been unusually large, but the number of volumes is still too small to meet the demands in a city rapidly approaching sixty thousand inhabitants. The annual purchase of books should be greater rather than less in the future. Indeed, so important do we consider the increased facilities of the library, that we venture to call particular attention, not only to the necessity for liberal appropriations in the future, but to the fact that we are less fortunate than some of our neighboring cities in having no munificent endowments through individual donations or bequests, and that we, therefore,

think it not out of place to express what we trust is no vain hope, that, as our fellow-citizens shall come to realize the importance of a well-organized library as an auxiliary institution of learning in every community, those who are fortunate in the possession of worldly wealth may increase its efficiency by substantial gifts.

Why should not those who, in other ways, have labored for the welfare of the city, and have watched with helpful interest whatever efforts have been made for the well-being of its citizens, consider whether a lasting monument would not be built in honor of their public spirit by setting aside, by immediate endowment or by legacy, from $2,000 to $5,000 to furnish an alcove bearing their own name, where valuable books on special subjects might be collected by the use of the income available from such fund? The value of such gift would not be confined to one year, but every successive year would add to the benefits that would accrue; and the generations to come would, with larger intelligence, be incited to more praiseworthy work, by such example.

The progress made during the year now closing marks an epoch in the history of the library. Never before have its treasures of literature been so fully revealed to those who desire to use them. A well considered system of classification has been adopted and completed, which will furnish the reader, or student, invaluable aid in his pursuits. Whatever topic he may desire to investigate, he will find a careful digest at his ready command. The advantages of such a work are so considerable, that it is to be regretted that it should not have been done at an earlier period. This does not in any way reflect upon the fidelity of former Boards of Trustees, or of those in immediate charge of the library, since it is comparatively of recent years that the need of such classification has been pressed home to the attention of libraries. Indeed, it may be said, and should be said as a matter of historical fact, that if it had not been for the painstaking fidelity of those having charge of the Public Library from the very first, we to-day should not be able to display so rich and abundant results.

Reference has already been made to the new system of classification. In this connection some brief mention should be made of the new catalogue, or what may be more fittingly called a finding list. Its value can hardly be overestimated. It is a book of reference in the investigation of individual topics, and a skilful guide in the adoption of a systematic course of reading.

It was found necessary in perfecting the present arrangements to close the library for about four months. This was done not merely to classify the books, or to construct the new catalogue, but in order that improvements might be made by introducing another method of shelving, and in securing more light in the book-room. We call attention to this because there have been some criticisms on account of this enforced closing of the building. If it had only been a matter of a new arrangement of books, or the re-numbering and cataloguing of the books, such work could have proceeded while the library was open, at least in part, although the work might have been retarded; but this could not be done while workmen, however efficient, were engaged in removing the old and cumbersome bookcases, and setting up new stacks for enlarged shelving room, and reconstructing the room so as to have virtually another story added to the original book-room, and making the lighting from windows double what it was before. This brief reference will satisfy any considerate observer that the best was done under the circumstances.

The trustees desire to call special attention to two matters which affect the usefulness of the library. One is the Monthly Bulletin. This will furnish the reader with a list of new books bought, and a carefully selected list of books on topics of more immediate public interest. Too much emphasis cannot be given to the importance of this bulletin. It should be read, even studied, and preserved for the valuable suggestions it will furnish.

Another matter of considerable moment is the action taken by the trustees, by which classes in the public schools above the seventh grade will be furnished direct from the library such books as they may select, and we are led to believe that their instructors will further their work by designating the most helpful and instructive books, in connection with their vocation. Aside from this special service for the benefit of the schools, pains will be taken by the librarian and his assistants to furnish to all who may desire to pursue any particular subject, all the aid in their power, so as to make everything in the library available. The reference room in the library will be open daily from 1.30 P. M. to 5.30 P. M., with an attendant to give any assistance needed.

It has been possible only to make brief reference of certain items which are referred to more in detail by our librarian in his report, which we submit to you as a part of our report. He has there

given us an historical sketch which supplements whatever has been heretofore stated in his previous reports. It is hoped that such sketch may some day be enlarged, so as to give a more complete history of what we deem to be an important department of the growth and development of our prosperous city. Too much praise cannot be accorded to the librarian, and his assistants as well, for the unflagging zeal and fidelity with which he has performed his work during the past year. To him is mainly due the design and execution of the plan of reorganization of the library, and thereby bringing it, we believe, to a higher degree of usefulness than it has ever attained before. We believe he fully realizes his responsibility, and the importance of his work, and loses no opportunity to promote its efficiency.

Gentlemen, it may be thought that too great importance is attached by us to the Public Library. But our familiarity with its operations through many years compels the conviction we express. Doubtless many books in the library are used by comparatively few persons. Nevertheless, such books are valuable, since the readers of them may, through their influence, induce many others to a wider use of such books, and render them more acceptable to the public at large. It has been said that poetry was only *vinum dæmonum*, *i. e.*, the wine of evil spirits, but the kindling of the imagination and the appeal to a lively sensibility may be of as large use in exciting the mind to a more serious study of literature, as the reading of history or the close application of the mind to metaphysics.

Bacon has written, "The first creation of God, in the work of the days, was the light of the sense, the last was the light of reason." It may be more easy to furnish what will stimulate and feed the former, but no one can dispute that the latter is of larger worth. The light that adorns matter may be pronounced good, but quite as good, with wider reach of power, is the light of the "living soul."

The resources of a library must give a banquet of many courses to those who may seek for an intellectual feast. There can be no uniformity of diet that can suit all tastes. It would be well to keep in mind the suggestive statement of the father of modern philosophy, so often quoted: "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested."

This may apply more especially to those whose experience in life and thought has the stamp of years. It must not be forgotten, how-

ever, that the influence of the Public Library touches the very springs of life. The young are educating ability and making character, and the old adage must not be kept out of sight — "*Abeunt studia in mores*," *i. e.*, studies become habits.

A great responsibility rests upon those who would help mould character by any method of development. The public press, the public school, and the public library hold in hand, in a great degree, the culture of the present and the character of the future. Whatever may be said of the public press and the public school, so far as the public library is concerned, we recognize our responsibility. What Epictetus said, in the dusty past, is true to-day, "You will do the greatest service to the State, if you raise, not the roof of the houses, but the souls of the citizens, for it is better that great souls should dwell in small houses rather than for mean slaves to lurk in great houses."

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES S. LINCOLN,
President.

December 30, 1895.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:—

Gentlemen,— In presenting my third annual report, which is the twenty-third annual report of the librarian, I most heartily congratulate you in the realization of the hopes of former years: namely, the alteration of the book-room, the erection of the book-stack, the reclassification of the library, and the printing of a complete finding list of the books. The past year has indeed been a notable one in the history of the library, a year largely of preparation and the laying of a foundation for greater usefulness in the future.

CHANGES.

At the very beginning of this report I desire to call your attention to the changes made in the library building. These cannot be altogether seen on the outside, although it will be noticed that while preserving substantially the appearance familiar for many years, the lengthening of the windows in the book-room end has added to the apparent height of the structure, and has improved the general appearance of the building, and gives virtually twice the former light-area, which is of great value to the library itself. This very important change for the better should not be overlooked. Yet for the immediate practical purposes of the library, the shelving of books, the increased space for the inevitable addition to the number of books in the near future, and the facility of delivering books to those calling for them, these interior changes are of more marked and substantial value.

The old wooden cases have been abandoned. Steel stacks have been substituted, light and strong, so constructed that light and air can reach all shelves. This will be of noticeable benefit to the books. The shelves themselves are interchangeable, and can be easily adjusted when loaded, making it a very simple and easy matter to enlarge the space set apart to any particular class of books, as the

continual growth of the library may from time to time require. This arrangement also adds largely to the shelf space devoted to the accommodation of the volumes for immediate use or for occasional reference. This will be more apparent when the statement is made, that between 50,000 and 60,000 volumes can be placed upon the stack which now occupies the space that formerly was crowded with less than 23,000.

These stacks occupy two stories. The upper story is easily reached by a stairway at each end of the book-room, and these stairways are so constructed as to give the least obstruction to the light, in this respect, following the design of the book-stack. The upper floor is of thick glass, and has an ornamental front and gallery rail.

There are two means for interior lighting, gas and electricity. Pipes and wires have been laid with great care so as to avoid any danger of fire. Even when gas is used, there will be no danger from the use of matches, as each burner is connected with a battery, and the gas lighted by electricity. It should also be stated that in lighting the several stacks, as they may be needed, each alcove is on a separate circuit. It is evident that this gives a marked advantage over any other ordinary method.

A still further change has been made in introducing a large book lift in the rear of the room, running from the basement to the second book-stack floor. All books will be received and unpacked in the basement, and at some future time a room should be fitted up there for the repairing of books.

The cost of the alterations in the building, the new book-stack, and the necessary changes and repairs amounted to $5,967.58. A detailed statement will be found in the financial exhibit herewith submitted. I congratulate you that you were able to complete the work, according to your original plans, within the appropriation made by the City Council for the purpose.

CLASSIFICATION AND CATALOGUING.

In perfecting the arrangements made, a vast amount of work was necessary, and it is obvious this could not be done while the library was open. The contractors, who had the alteration of the building, and the erection of the book-stack in charge, must have undisturbed possession of the book-room for three months, and it was necessary

to close the library June 1st. In less than three days over 23,000 books were packed away in boxes, filling the delivery room well-nigh to the ceiling, and in the old cases set up in the reading room, so closely arranged that it was with great difficulty individual volumes could be reached. This fact, together with the very contracted space in which any clerical work could be done, made the labor of cataloguing, classifying, and changing the numbering system very exacting. It may be said, however, that no more faithful and vigilant work has been done for the city, than that wrought by the Cataloguer of this library, Miss F. Mabel Norcross, and her assistants, who have numbered sometimes as many as eight. Let it be understood that this work included not merely writing the titles of books for an ordinary list catalogue, but a careful classification of all the books in the library. In this respect, and in the admirable success attained, Miss Norcross deserves most honorable mention. She has been tireless in her efforts to have the catalogue in every way complete. The extent of this work will be readily seen by any one who will examine a catalogue slip and notice what it includes,— bearing in mind that every work in the library had its individual slip.—

808 S 3	521.1 SPOFFORD, AINSWORTH RAND *and* GIBBON, CHARLES, *ed.* Library of choice literature: prose and poetry, selected from standard authors. Ed. 2.
17423–32	Phil. [c 1888.] 10 v. 8°. *pl.* *Note.*—For index of authors, see v. 10.

First, the author's present name, frequently a difficult matter to ascertain, as many more books are written anonymously than is generally supposed, and matrimony makes strange havoc with even authors' names. Second, the complete title of the book. Third, the

edition of the book. Fourth, the number of volumes in the set. Fifth, where published. Sixth, when published. Seventh, size of the book. Eighth, illustrated or not. Ninth, number of pages in book. Tenth, any other bibliographic notes that may be needed to describe the work or edition. Eleventh, the old shelf number of the book. Twelfth, accession catalogue number. Thirteenth, classification. Fourteenth, new class or call number.

The merely mechanical work necessary was arduous. Every book had to be written on two slips, one under its title, the other under the name of the author. Such slips numbered nearly 60,000. But this was only a part of the work needed. Every book was overhauled, the label on it steamed off, and a new one put in its place and a new number given it, and this new call number must be written on the book-plate within the book, and on both sides of the charging slip. Every book, besides, had on the inside of the back cover a pocket for the charging slip, which must be folded and pasted in its place, and a dating slip attached on the last fly-leaf.

All this labor was necessarily connected with the new method of classification and cataloguing. When the finding list was completed, it was found to contain 472 closely-printed pages. How much work this represents may be partially known by studying the extent of the classification. There are ten general classes. Each class has ten divisions, and each division has, at least, ten sections.

The following tables will give a general idea of the Decimal System of Classification: —

CLASSES.

0. General Works.
1. Philosophy.
2. Religion.
3. Sociology.
4. Philology.
5. Natural Science.
6. Useful Arts.
7. Fine Arts.
8. Literature.
9. History.

DIVISIONS.

000 General Works.

010 Bibliography.
020 Library economy.
030 General cyclopedias.
040 General collections.
050 General periodicals.
060 General societies.
070 Newspapers.
080 Polygraphy.
090 Book rarities.

100 Philosophy.

110 Metaphysics.
120 Special metaphysical topics.
130 Mind and body.
140 Philosophical systems.
150 Psychology.
160 Logic.
170 Ethics.
180 Ancient philosophers.
190 Modern philosophers.

200 Religion.

210 Natural theology.
220 Bible.
230 Doctrinal theology.
240 Devotional and practical.
250 Homiletic. Parochial.
260 Church. Institutions.
270 Religious history.
280 Christian churches. Sects.
290 Non-Christian religions.

300 Sociology.

310 Statistics.
320 Political science.
330 Political economy.
340 Law.
350 Administration.
360 Associations. Institutions.
370 Education.
380 Commerce.
390 Customs. Costumes.

400 Philology.

410 Comparative.
420 English.
430 German.
440 French.
450 Italian.
460 Spanish.
470 Latin.
480 Greek.
490 Minor languages.

500 Natural Science.

510 Mathematics.
520 Astronomy.
530 Physics.
540 Chemistry.
550 Geology.
560 Paleontology.
570 Biology.
580 Botany.
590 Zoölogy.

600 Useful Arts.

610 Medicine.
620 Engineering.
630 Agriculture.
640 Domestic economy.
650 Communication.
660 Chemical technology.
670 Manufactures.
680 Mechanic trades.
690 Building.

700 Fine Arts.

710 Landscape gardening.
720 Architecture.
730 Sculpture.
740 Drawing. Design.
750 Painting.
760 Engraving.
770 Photography.
780 Music.
790 Amusements.

800 Literature.

810 American.
820 English.
830 German.
840 French.
850 Italian.
860 Spanish.
870 Latin.
880 Greek.
890 Minor languages.

900 History.

910 Geography and description.
920 Biography.
930 Ancient history.

Modern.

940 Europe.
950 Asia.
960 Africa.
970 North America.
980 South America.
990 Oceanica and Polar regions.

THIRD SUMMARY. SECTIONS.

600 USEFUL ARTS.

601 Philosophy.
602 Compends.
603 Dictionaries. Cyclopedias.
604 Essays. Lectures. Addresses.
605 Periodicals. Magazines.
606 Societies. Fairs. Exhibitions.
607 Education.
608 Patents.
609 History of useful arts.

610 MEDICINE.

611 Anatomy.
612 Physiology.
613 Hygiene. Gymnastics.
614 Public health.
615 Materia medica. Therapeutics.
616 Pathology. Diseases.
617 Surgery. Dentistry.
618 Diseases of women and children.
619 Comparative medicine.

620 ENGINEERING.

621 Mechanical.
622 Mining.
623 Military.
624 Bridge and roof.
625 Road and railroad.
626 Canal.
627 River and harbor.
628 Sanitary. Water-works.
629 Other branches.

630 AGRICULTURE.

631 Soil fertilizers. Drainage.
632 Pests. Blights. Insects.
633 Grains. Grasses. Tea, etc.
634 Fruits. Orchards. Vineyards.
635 Kitchen garden.
636 Domestic animals.
637 Dairy. Milk. Butter. Cheese.
638 Bees. Silkworms.
639 Fishing. Trapping.

640 DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

641 Cookery. Gastronomy.
642 Confectionery. Ices.
643 Food. Dining. Carving.
644 Fuel. Lights.
645 Furniture. Carpets. Upholstery.
646 Clothing. Cosmetics. Toilet.
647 Servants. Training. Wages.
648 Laundry.
649 Nursery. Children. Sick-room.

650 COMMUNICATION. COMMERCE.

651 Writing. Cipher. Typewriters.
652 Penmanship. Methods.
653 Shorthand. Abbreviations.
654 Telegraphy. Cables. Signals.
655 Printing. Type. Publishing.
656 Transportation. Railroading, etc.
657 Book-keeping. Accounts.
658 Business manuals. Methods.
659 Advertising and other topics.

660 CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY.

661 Chemicals; salts, paints, etc.
662 Pyrotechnics. Explosives.
663 Beverages; wines, liquors, etc.
664 Foods; sugar, starch, etc.
665 Lights; gas, oils, candles, etc.
666 Ceramics; glass, clay, cement, etc.
667 Bleaching. Dyeing. Inks.
668 Other organic chemical industries.
669 Metallurgy. Assaying.

670 MANUFACTURES.

671 Articles made of metals.
672 Of iron and steel; cutlery, etc.
673 Of brass and bronze; bells, etc.
674 Lumber.
675 Leather.
676 Paper.
677 Cotton, wool, silk and linen.
678 Rubber.
679 Celluloid.

680 MECHANIC TRADES.

681 Watch and instrument making.
682 Blacksmithing. Horseshoeing.
683 Lock and gun-making.
684 Carriage and cabinet-making.
685 Saddlery. Trunks.
686 Book-binding.
687 Clothes-making. Hats.
688
689 Other trades.

690 BUILDING.

691 Materials, timber, stone, etc.
692 Plans and specifications.
693 Masonry. Plastering, etc.
694 Carpentry. Stair-building.
695 Slating and tiling.
696 Plumbing. Gas and steam-fitting.
697 Warming and ventilation.
698 Painting, glazing. Paper-hanging.
699 Car and ship-building.

We made some changes from the decimal system, and, except in few instances, did we carry the classification beyond the decimal point. Fiction and biography, for instance, were taken out of the regular classification in order to prepare separate finding lists on those two subjects, and in fiction and biography the Cutter Expansive System was used.

It is not to be understood that the new finding list is perfect, or is the best that could be made if we had plenty of time, a large library force, and plenty of money. It has its advantages over the old-style catalogue, and also its disadvantages. The ideal catalogue would have had, in addition to the subject and the author list, a complete title list, with full cross references, but the question of expense prevented this, and compelled abbreviated titles and names, the omission of size of books, pages, edition, and bibliographical information, which we hope to supply in a complete card catalogue, which I trust the funds at your disposal may permit us to commence very soon, and nothing will interrupt until it is completed, or rather brought up to date, for a card catalogue is never complete, so long as a library is used. Such a catalogue as we need, and must have, if we are to make the most of our opportunity, will call for another large expediture of money and time.

Something should be added just here, more in detail, concerning the difficulty of classification and the dissatisfaction one feels when he has done his best. It might seem an easy matter, at first glance, to place an author's name and work. The contrary is true. For an illustration, let us take some of the works of Ruskin, shall they be placed under the head of art, or essay, or somewhere else? He is best known by his books on art, yet he has written on political economy, he has given to the world a volume of poems and more than one of essays; his writings include history, travels, biography, natural science, sociology, natural history, and religion. A single book of his might properly be classed in either one of two or more classes, but unfortunately a single book cannot be shelved in two places at the same time. What shall we do with it? The most practical rule is to consider where the average person would look for it and so classify it. Of course it will be seen that some books are naturally perplexing. Letters might properly enough be classed under literature, and English letters be marked 826, yet letters of travel might be placed with the 910's, while others might be placed with the works

on biography. Biography may easily be confounded at times with history or travels, and history or travels with biography. It frequently happens that when, after close study, you have classed a work under one head, you are perplexed to find that it might almost as well have been classed under another head.

Take for illustration, Custer's Boots and Saddle. It is largely a book of travel and description, 917, but the A. L. A. catalogue places it in biography, 920. We classed it 917.88.

917 represents travels in North America, 917.8 represents travels in the Western States in general, and 917.88 represents travels in Dakota. It will thus be seen, that by using five figures in the call, or shelf number, we are enabled to place all books of travel in one State, side by side in the library.

So, too, Collier's History of English Literature in a series of biographical studies might be classed as either collective biography, 920, or history of literature in general, as it contains American literature, 820.

Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress might properly enough be classed as fiction, or as religious miscellany, which includes religious novels, allegories, etc. The A. L. A. classes it among fiction. We placed it under religious miscellany, that is, 244.

Of course our classification is abundantly open to criticism. I say "of course," because nobody can classify a library so that it satisfy anybody else, or even satisfy himself after he has finished it. There is no royal road to classification. "The best" is still to be found. The reasons for or against placing a certain book in a particular class, are too nicely balanced, or too slight and unimportant for different minds to be determined by them identically. We can all of us criticise every scheme that ever has been, or ever will be prepared, for at best, it is a matter of opinion, and opinions disagree. Even our own opinions are not the same under different states of mind.

Strabo records the fact that the King of Egypt employed Aristotle to classify his library, who pronounced him to be "the only man who was able to arrange the books of a large library in an orderly and systematic manner."

COST OF CLASSIFICATION AND FINDING LIST.

When it was decided to classify the library and print a complete finding list of the books, we estimated that it would cost $4,350,

and that it would take, at least, one year to do the work. As a matter of fact, the finding list was completed in thirteen months from the time we commenced the work of cataloguing, and the total expense was $4,343.97.

We paid for extra help in this work in 1894, $251, and during this year $1,144.22. To these sums should be added the salaries of Miss Norcross for fourteen months, and of the librarian and his two assistants for the four months that the library was closed, viz.: $1,318.33. The cost of printing and binding 1,000 copies of the complete finding list, and 1,000 copies of the works of fiction and biography, was $1,630.42, making the total cost $4,343.97.

CITY APPROPRIATIONS.

The action of the city government in its appropriation for the benefit of the Public Library deserves more than a passing notice. It is difficult to gauge the value to a community, both in material prosperity and intellectual and social culture, of such enlightened liberality, — difficult, because in the nature of things, there may be no perceptible immediate results. It is easy to see an apparent advance in prosperity — when some special turn in public affairs "booms" real estate, or gives a transient excitement in any department of business. But the steady, resolute, and persistent advance in enduring prosperity is not so easily determined. It is the story over again of the mushroom and the oak. The first grows in a night and we can measure its size, the latter grows through scores of years, but the rings that tell of passing time are hidden, and we can judge of the vigor of the tree only by the slowly widening spread of its branches, and its patient endurance of summer's heat and winter's frosts.

It may be stated as a fact that the character of a community is largely determined by its intelligence, and that its intelligence depends upon its thought, its active force, and its purpose of life. All these are very largely dependent upon the educational resources of such community. Of course this brings us not merely into the region of that social life whose amenities have come from successive generations — but from the immediate use of such means as the Public Library and the Public Schools — together with all that religious and philanthropic institutions can provide.

The refinement of life in our large towns and cities, and especially throughout New England, is no accident. It can be traced to the thoughtful use of agencies that foster good living, high thinking, and an energy of life that is not appalled by difficulty, that does not faint by any exhaustion or dissipation of power in unworthy directions.

This city's government must care for varied enterprises. The resources of the city must be taxed — it may be thought, at times, too heavily. But there is no wisdom which can have better results, than that which not merely provides for present emergencies, but for future development.

So far as the Public Library is concerned, I venture to call attention to the increased use made of the facilities it offers, not only by the general reader, not only by those who pursue some specialty, but by those in our homes who need the rest which a good book, whether essay or novel, can give, and also by those who are entering upon manhood and womanhood, and upon whom must soon rest the responsibility, embracing the weal or woe of the future. Let it be understood that this institution has no professional narrowness. The Public Library can help the clergyman, the physician, the lawyer, the teacher. It should be so systematized in its arrangements that every profession and calling can consult it with the least possible trouble. But let us bear in mind that the average information, the average education, the average activity of life, make up the average character of the people. We do not judge the wealth of resource of our country by some exceptionally fertile valley or by the uplifted grandeur of some mountain range, but by the fertility of prairie lands and the reserve force in our lakes, that through natural or artificial channels turns the wheels of our multiplied industries. The educated common sense of the people in the various avenues of trade, and in the application of labor to all industrial arts is that upon which the hope of the future must rest, and by which the present work *for* the future must be governed.

I would especially emphasize the wisdom of the expenditure for the enlargement in accommodation and books in the Public Library. As I have said, we cannot determine the value of such expenditure by immediate accomplishment, but we may with entire confidence anticipate from it the gradual uplift of the community, and the deepening and broadening of its noblest life. Sometimes this comes with gradual development, sometimes by what seems a surprise. Florists are agreed that some of the most perfect flowers were what

were called "sports," or, in other words, accidents. But accident is only revelation of unrecognized power. The king may sleep in the cradle of a peasant. Was not an Emperor of Rome once a slave? Did not Alfred find shelter in a herdsman's hut? Was not one President of the United States a rail-splitter, another a tailor, another a tow-path boy? When you lay your hand upon the forehead of a child, and quicken its intelligence, you may touch a head that may be crowned with the dignity of labor, labor that may come to live in the White House, or be crowned at the bench of the mechanic.

The Public Library is meant to develop public resources for the public good. Let it have the generous support and hearty encouragement of those who constitute the public.

STATISTICS.

The whole number of books placed in the library since it was founded, as recorded in the Accession catalogue, is 31,739, and the number lost, worn out, and withdrawn during this same period, appears to be 2,755, making the number of books in the library at the present time 28,984. This does not include many volumes in the public document and duplicate room, and pamphlets.

During the past year 4,010 volumes have been added, and 163 have been worn out and withdrawn, making a net gain of 3,847 volumes. Many of these have been added to complete sets, and to strengthen those departments of the library that were most deficient. Most of these books were added during the early part of the year, and are included in the new finding list. Of the number added, 346 volumes were donations, and 3,664 volumes by purchase, and the binding of serials.

CIRCULATION.

The library has been open for the distribution of books only 204 days during the past year, it being closed June 1st. The East Somerville agency was discontinued April 15th, and the agency at West Somerville June 1st; neither of them have been reopened, but instead, the eight large grammar schools will be made distributing centres.

The number of books given out for home use was 68,231. The circulation of books during the year cannot be compared with any degree of accuracy with the circulation in former years, as the conditions have been so entirely different. While it is a fact that the library was nominally open for the delivery of books October 1st, only works of fiction and biography were ready for circulation at that time, and it was nearly December before all of the classes of books in the circulating department were ready for the public, therefore, the above figures do not represent the normal circulation for eight months.

The people living in the eastern and the western portions of the city, who relied upon the agencies for their books, have not adapted themselves to the changed conditions, and are not using the library as freely as they did. It may be found that the deliveries through the schools will not take the place of those closed, and supply the needs of these patrons. If such should prove to be the case, and a considerable number of persons living in those localities should ask for agencies open during the same hours as the library, their request should receive careful consideration. Over 13,000 volumes were sent through the agencies at East Somerville and Davis square last year. The number circulated through these channels the present year is misleading, and is therefore omitted.

In this connection it may be fitting to suggest, as we look forward at the future possibilities of the library, that it is worth our thoughtful consideration, whether it may not be practicable, at no distant day, to extend the facilities of the library, not only by delivering books at the schools, but at individual homes. It certainly seems possible that a system of book delivery could be devised that would be inexpensive, and a great saving of time.

Since not only books, but everything that a pupil can use in our public schools, are placed in his hands at the public expense, whenever he needs them, why should not those who rely upon the "people's college" for their mental equipment, have a similar advantage? In these days, when so many calls upon the time are made, not by business only, but by social duties, why would it not be to the great interest and advantage of those who would avail themselves of the rich resources of the library, to have a call by postal card or telephone for a volume answered as readily as the order for the morning newspaper or the latest magazine, that the postal service delivers at a simply nominal sum, indeed, it might be connected with the *local* postal service?

DONATIONS.

During the year the library has received as gifts 147 bound volumes, 200 pamphlets, and 912 numbers of periodicals. We have entered in the Accession catalogue and placed upon the shelves of the library 346 volumes that were donated, a part of which were donated in former years.

LIST OF DONATIONS.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Adams, Mrs. Lucy M.	. . .	. . .	12
Amherst College	. . .	1	. . .
Boston Public Library	. . .	1	3
Boulcott, John T.	3	. . .	. . .
Bradley, C. D.	. . .	1	. . .
Brewer, David H.	1	. . .	. . .
Brigham, W. E.	. . .	. . .	8
Brookline Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Builders Iron Foundry, Providence, R. I.	. . .	2	. . .
Burns, Hon. Mark F.	1	. . .	. . .
Cambridge Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Chelsea Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Chicago Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Christian Register	. . .	. . .	52
Cincinnati Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Cleveland Board of Education	1	. . .	. . .
Clinton Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Coddington, Rev. I. P.	. . .	. . .	18
Concord Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Daniels, F. T.	1	. . .	. . .
Dayton, Ohio, Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Detroit Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Dover, N. H., Public Library	. . .	2	. . .
Duddy, Robert	13	11	. . .
Eaton, Horace L.	1	. . .	. . .
Elliot, Charles W.	. . .	1	. . .
Fall River Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Field, Mrs. L. A.	. . .	. . .	12
First Methodist Church	3	. . .	. . .
Fitchburg Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Frothingham, Thomas G.	. . .	11	. . .
Gifford, W. L. R.	2	. . .	. . .
Glines, A. W.	. . .	. . .	12
Gottsberger, W. J.	1	. . .	. . .
Grand Army of the Republic, Dept. of Mass.	1	. . .	. . .
Groom, T. & Co.	. . .	1	. . .
Harvard Graduates Magazine	. . .	. . .	3

LIST OF DONATIONS. — *Continued.*

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Harvard University	1	. . .	. . .
Hayes, Mrs. E. S.	. . .	. . .	130
Hayes, John S.	1	. . .	. . .
Helena, Mon., Public Library	. . .	4	. . .
Hills, William H.	. . .	1	. . .
Hoffman, Mrs. F. C.	. . .	. . .	200
Home Market Club	. . .	. . .	12
Hume, Hon. Harrison	. . .	1	. . .
Hunt, Abby C.	36	48	118
Illinois State Library	. . .	1	. . .
Indian Rights Association	. . .	2	. . .
Jersey City Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Journal Publishing Co.	. . .	. . .	104
Kellogg, John L., Providence	1	. . .	. . .
Ladies Home Journal	1	. . .	. . .
Lancaster Public Library	. . .	2	. . .
Lincoln, Charles S.	1	. . .	. . .
Maguire, J. G., California	. . .	1	. . .
Maine, State of	1	. . .	. . .
Malden Public Library	. . .	2	. . .
Massachusetts, State of	15	. . .	. . .
Massachusetts, Commissioner of Labor	1	. . .	. . .
Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association	2	. . .	. . .
Medford Public Library	. . .	1	5
Melrose Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Milwaukee Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Mt. Holyoke College	. . .	1	. . .
New Haven Public Library	2	3	. . .
Newark, N. J., Public Library	2	. . .	. . .
Newton Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
North Adams Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Patterson Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Peabody Institute	. . .	1	. . .
Portland, Oregon, Public Library	. . .	1	6
Pratt, R. D.	5	. . .	. . .
Providence Public Library	. . .	3	12
Pullman Palace Car Co.	. . .	1	. . .
Radiator, Editors of	. . .	. . .	7
Ring, F. W.	1	. . .	. . .
Rymes, Christopher E.	1	. . .	. . .
St. Louis Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Salem Public Library	1	2	12
Sanford, P. B.	1	. . .	. . .
Sargent, Aaron	1	. . .	. . .
Scranton Pa., Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Springfield Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Stone, E. A.	1	. . .	. . .
Taunton Public Library	. . .	1	. . .

LIST OF DONATIONS. — *Concluded.*

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Teachers' College, N. Y.	. . .	2	. . .
Tead, Rev. E. S.	. . .	. . .	20
The People, N. Y.	. . .	. . .	52
Thompson, B. F.	1	. . .	. . .
Thorpe, J. G., Jr.	. . .	4	. . .
Traveller's Insurance Co.	. . .	. . .	12
Trustees Public Reservations	. . .	1	. . .
Tuftonian, Tufts College	. . .	. . .	15
Tufts College	. . .	2	. . .
United Societies, Manifesto	. . .	. . .	12
United States Government	38	54	. . .
University of Pennsylvania	1	. . .	. . .
Vincent, Geo. I.	2	. . .	. . .
Werner Co., of Chicago	1	. . .	. . .
Whittier, J. H., Rochester, N. H.	1	1	10
Winthrop Public Library	. . .	1	. . .
Woburn Public Library	. . .	8	1
Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, First Universalist Church	. . .	. . .	64
Frothingham, Thomas G.		1 por.	

REBINDING.

During the past year 1,440 volumes have been sent to the bindery, and each year this number must be larger as the library grows in size, and increases in age, consequently the bills for rebinding will necessarily be larger, and this fact should be considered by the City Council in making its annual appropriation. Of this number, 1,142 volumes were books from the circulating departments, and 298 volumes of magazines.

MONTHLY BULLETINS.

Every public library that endeavors to keep up with the times, must furnish its readers with information as to fresh accessions. Up to the present time we have relied upon posting lists of new books in the delivery room, having a card catalogue of accessions for the public, and printing the lists in the local papers. The disadvantage

of the first two methods lies in the fact that the readers must come to the library to make their selection of books, and the lists printed in the newspaper may not reach many that desire the latest book. What is needed is a list that can be consulted at home, so that more care can be given to the selection of books, and that those who desire to make out for themselves a course of reading that they would like to pursue, may be able to make their selection at their leisure, undisturbed by the noise and confusion that is unavoidable, to a great extent, in the busy delivery room of our library.

I am now prepared to carry out the suggestion you made to me two years ago, and shall issue as near the first of each month as possible, commencing with January 1st, a bulletin containing not only a complete list of the accessions to the library, but special reading lists on subjects that are, or should be, of general interest to the public, and hints on reading. It will also serve as a convenient medium for announcements of all kinds relating to the library. I hope to make it so attractive, valuable and necessary, that it will be carefully preserved, for these bulletins and the printed finding list will form a complete catalogue of books in the library.

SEVEN-DAY BOOKS.

All the books in the circulating library at the present time are fourteen-day books and have been since the library was reopened. I am satisfied that the general public prefer to have the privilege of retaining a book for fourteen days, and it is also evident that the same general public dislike exceedingly to wait for the popular book. The demand for the new popular work of fiction, and some other books, is so great, that we must either procure more duplicate copies of these books, soon to be so much "dead capital" when the "craze" is over, or shorten the time they can remain in the hands of the reader. It seems to me that it would be better to return to the practice of making the new works of fiction, the unbound magazines, and a few other small books, "seven-day" books.

CHARGING SYSTEM.

The one thing in the daily routine of a library that influences the opinions of the borrowers of books as to the management, is the system of issuing and charging of books, and it is the very thing with

which every reader has to do, every time he visits the library. He comes to exchange a book, and the thing he cannot tolerate is slowness. He wants the book immediately, even if he is in no hurry after he gets it. If we are to please the public, we must pass the book through the routine with great rapidity, and it must not be done at the expense of accuracy, beyond this it cares almost nothing. It makes little difference to the borrower whether it is noisy or quiet, easy or difficult, requiring one or ten attendants; his concern consists in having his book discharged and delivered to him in the least possible time, and with perfect accuracy.

It will thus be readily seen that the method of keeping accounts with the books and the readers, is perhaps the most important question of library management, and the two essential factors that must determine the one to use are accuracy and rapidity, for unless your accounts are accurately kept, books will be continually lost, and if the patrons are unnecessarily detained in obtaining the book, they will tire of coming to the library.

The librarian must be able to locate every book belonging to the library at any time. If not in its place on the shelf, he must know whether it has been loaned to a reader, sent to the bindery, is being repaired, has been removed to another part of the library, is in the reading or reference room temporarily, is worn out, lost, or misplaced. More than this, he must know when it left the shelf, and when it should be returned. It is also very important for him to have a record of the circulation of each particular book, connecting each book with its borrower, in order to aid in discovery of mutilation or damage, also to determine the number of copies needed, and in case it is lost or worn out, he can determine whether it should be replaced or not.

Up to the present time, it has been our aim to simplify and perfect our charging system, so that it would not only furnish all the data required as to the books, but would reduce the time that the patrons of the library are compelled to wait for their books, and yet have the record correct.

How successful we may have been, in these particulars, you must judge, but we have demonstrated this fact, that no device has yet been invented that will prevent delays and even mistakes, during the hours when the delivery room is crowded, and the demands upon the attendants at the desk are incessant. This, however, can be safely

said, the system that we now use not only answers all of the requirements enumerated, but has reduced the perplexities to a minimum, and is a great improvement on any heretofore used in this library.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The question of establishing a public library in the town of Somerville had been suggested by different citizens for many years previous to 1869, but Edward E. Edgerly, President of the Somerville High School Association, seems to have taken a most active interest in the matter. Prevented by lingering sickness, and subsequent death, from maturing his plans, he had enthusiastically labored to instill his ideas into the minds of his associates, among whom was Henry M. Brown, who has the honor of taking the first active measures towards the establishment of the library, and in persuading the members of the Somerville High School Association to undertake the movement. Mr. Brown, with the consent of the executive committee of that body, sent letters to the Board of Selectmen and Board of School Committee of the town, inviting them to co-operate with the association in procuring a public library for Somerville. The selectmen promptly responded, by appointing a committee, consisting of three of its members, to confer with a similar committee of the association. This latter body immediately selected three gentlemen, and the two delegations met in December, 1869, and consisted of the following well-known citizens, viz.: Austin Belknap, Horace Haskins, and Francis Houghton, of the Board of Selectmen, and Edward C. Booth, Henry M. Brown, and George S. Littlefield, of the High School Association.

In March, 1870, the same committee was reappointed, and later in the year prepared a brief plan for founding and operating the proposed library. By this plan the executive committee of the association and the Board of Selectmen were to meet and elect a Board of Trustees for the library, three of whom were to be members of the Board of Selectmen, three members of the High School Association, and three citizens at large, and it was so arranged that the term of office of one of each class should expire each year. In accordance with this plan, an election was held, and the following-named gentlemen were provisionally chosen, viz.: Austin Belknap, Henry M. Brown, Samuel A. Carlton, Horace P. Hemenway, Oren S. Knapp,

John P. Marshall, Edwin Mills, Frank H. Raymond, and Columbus Tyler.

But the town, at a meeting held April 29, 1871, did not see fit to approve of the action thus taken, but "Voted, that a free public library be established," and appointed a committee, consisting of the above-mentioned board, and Russell H. Conwell, Joshua H. Davis, Samuel C. Hunt, George S. Littlefield, Rev. Charles Lowe, Isaac Pitman, and Quincy A. Vinal, "to report a plan for operating the same."

This committee organized by the choice of Rev. Charles Lowe as chairman, and George S. Littlefield as secretary. They devoted much time in perfecting plans, and considering rules and regulations for the management of the library, and in June appointed a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Vinal, Hunt, and Littlefield, who prepared a report, which was substantially that finally presented by the whole committee to the town.

Rev. Charles Lowe and Professor John P. Marshall, being absent in Europe, were unable to attend to the duties of this committee, and Rev. G. W. Durell and John R. Poor were invited to act in their places, and Austin Belknap was elected chairman. At a town meeting held July 22, the citizens ratified the change in the committee, granted them further time, and authorized them to report in print.

The report of this committee was accepted and adopted by the citizens in town meeting assembled, November 7, 1871.

In anticipation of the soon realized change from town to city form of government, it was provided, that the first Board of Trustees of the library should be elected by the first City Council, as soon after their organization as convenient. Accordingly, at a meeting of the City Council in convention, holden October 21, 1872, the following-named gentlemen were elected trustees of the public library: Three years, John P. Marshall, Austin Belknap, Charles A. Guild; two years, Quincy A. Vinal, Edward C. Booth, Michael J. Canavan; one year, George O. Brastow, William H. Furber, Selwyn Z. Bowman.

November 14, the Board of Trustees organized by electing John P. Marshall, president, and Edward C. Booth, secretary. November 19, Isaac Pitman was elected librarian.

May 1, 1873, the library was opened to the public, in the present City Hall, with 2,384 volumes on the shelves, of which 715 volumes were given by thirty-six donors.

June 1, 1875, Mr. Isaac Pitman resigned as librarian, and his assistant, Miss H. A. Adams, was elected to his place.

It is not only from a sense of duty, but of grateful appreciation that we refer to the voluntary and gratuitous work of Mr. Isaac Pitman, the first librarian, and to the long continued and faithful labors of the second librarian, Miss Harriet A. Adams. She won ample recognition of her ability and fidelity from every board of trustees through her many years of service, and now, as the library starts on an enlarged course of usefulness under improved conditions, it is fitting that this reference should be made to the highly creditable efforts of other years. The walls and roof of any structure can be secure only as the foundation is sound.

The present library building was erected in 1884–5, at a cost of $28,388.45, exclusive of land, and was dedicated September 29, 1895, and the principal address on that occasion was made by Justin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard College.

The marked increase in the number of books made it imperative that either an addition should be made to the library building or that a change should be made in its book-shelving capacity. After very careful considerations of the needs and the cost, it was determined that a new method of shelving should be made practicable and additional use made of the book-storing space. Consequently, in 1895, the book-room was changed, by erecting a steel book-stack. This work was done by A. B. & W. I. Westervelt, New York. The total cost of the improvements was $5,967.50, and to-day the library building can accommodate 60,000 volumes, so classified that the usefulness of the library is more than quadrupled.

Names of those who have served on the Board of Trustees since the Library was established in 1872.

	Elected.	Retired.
John P. Marshall, President, 1872–75	1872	1875
Austin Belknap	1872	1875
Charles H. Guild, President, 1875–76	1875	1876
Quincy A. Vinal	1872	1877
Edward C. Booth	1872	1876
Michael J. Canavan	1872	1874
George O. Brastow	1872	1873
William H. Furber	1872	1876
Selwyn Z. Bowman	1872	1873
Charles G. Pope	1873	1876
" "	1885	1889
H. H. Barber, President, 1881–85	1873	1885
S. A. Carlton	1873	1876
Charles Lowe	1874	1874
William Veazie	1875	1885
William G. Toucey, President, 1876–81	1875	1884
T. J. Buffum	1876	1885
F. H. Raymond	1876	1879
A. M. Robinson	1876	1882
R. C. Downer	1876	1880
E. S. Conant	1876	1884
William H. Brine	1877	1889
C. S. Lincoln, President, 1885	1878	
J. Henry Flitner	1880	
C. E. Rymes	1882	
William E. Weld	1884	1893
Mark F. Burns	1884	1885
George A. Bruce	1884	1892
Sanford Hanscom, M. D.	1885	1890
James E. Whitaker	1885	1894
Elijah C. Clark	1889	
Charles H. Brown	1889	
John B. Viall	1890	
Charles A. West	1892	
J. Frank Wellington	1893	
Charles W. Sawyer	1895	
LIBRARIANS.		
Isaac Pitman	1872	1875
Miss H. A. Adams	1875	1893
John S. Hayes	1893	

We purposely refrain from saying anything about the time, thought and labor, gratuitously given by these gentlemen, eminent in public service, feeling assured that the public appreciate their efforts, and that the fruits of their labors can be seen, not only in the monument they have aided to erect, but in the intelligence of our citizens who so freely patronize the library.

YEARLY ACCESSIONS.

It may be of interest to note the additions of books to the library each year since it was started, as found recorded in the Accession catalogue. These figures denote the *total* accessions, and include the volumes worn out, lost, or withdrawn.

The library was open to the public May 1, 1873, with 2,384 volumes on its shelves.

	Added Each Year.	Accession No. Dec. 31, of Each Year.
Volumes May 1, 1873	2,384	
Added during 1873	1,251	3,635
" 1874	1,027	4,662
" 1875	573	5,235
" 1876	602	5,837
" 1877	853	6,690
" 1878	749	7,439
" 1879	515	7,954
" 1880	660	8,614
" 1881	668	9,282
" 1882	770	10,052
" 1883	913	10,965
" 1884	859	11,824
" 1885	964	12,788
" 1886	1,150	13,938
" 1887	1,165	15,103
" 1888	1,846	16,949
" 1889	1,346	18,295
" 1890	1,817	20,112
" 1891	1,432	21,544
" 1892	1,648	23,192
" 1893	1,677	24,869
" 1894	2,860	27,729
" 1895	4,010	31,739
Total number Dec. 31, 1895	31,739 volumes.	

It will be noticed that during the first five years there were added an average of 861 volumes each year; during the next five years an average of 672 volumes each year; during the third period of five years, an average of 1,010 volumes each year, and during the fourth period, an average of 1,618 volumes each year. In the year 1894, 2,860 volumes were added, and the present year, 4,010 volumes.

YEARLY CIRCULATION.

While it is true that the benefits derived from the use of the library cannot be reckoned in coin, expressed in tables, or described by the pen, it may be interesting, however, to see to what extent the public make use of the books in the library, and the number of books circulated from year to year.

Tables of figures are often misleading, and the following one will be, unless it is borne in mind that during the past twenty-three years of the library the figures representing the circulation have not always had the same meaning. During many years it was the rule to add the number of books taken from the shelves for consultation in the library, to the circulation, and also to count a renewed book the same as a book taken out, although it may not have left the shelf but once.

For the past two years, the word "circulation" means the number of volumes taken out for home use. It should also be borne in mind that the library was closed nearly three months during the year 1885, and more than four months during the present year: —

1873	18,047
1874	35,202
1875	39,025
1876	46,855
1877	57,682
1878	61,076
1879	63,215
1880	67,894
1881	67,649
1882	67,673
1883	70,531
1884	72,591
Amount carried forward	66,740

Amount brought forward . . .	66,740
1885	65,450
1886	77,610
1887	79,062
1888	80,697
1889	88,381
1890	95,127
1891	95,248
1892	93,451
1893	93,213
1894	106,341
1895	68,231
Total	1,610,251

YEARLY APPROPRIATION AND COLLECTIONS.

	Appropriations.	Dog Licenses.	Catalogues.	Fines.	Gifts.	Miscellaneous.
Before 1872	$2,237.76				. . .	. . .
1872	1,139.33				. . .	. . .
1873	4,000.00			$146.80	$100.00	. . .
1874	1,162.29			237.59	2.80	$.75
1875	1,000.00	$1,269.96		245.14	. . .	. . .
1876		1,260.29		216.46	. . .	. . .
1877	1,500.00	1,362.30		206.18	. . .	. . .
1878	1,200.00	1,080.85		224.07	. . .	. . .
1879	1,200.00	936.10		260.20	. .	. . .
1880	1,500.00	934.23	$46.74	231.92	. . .	. . .
1881	1,200.00	927.13	29.72	205.10	. . .	. . .
1882	1,500.00	1,018.37	28,80	236.71	. . .	. . .
1883	1,500.00	1,083.63	31.30	241.56	. . .	. . .
1884	1,500.00	1,307.75	34.24	214.86	. . .	. . .
1885	2,500.00	1,402.04	37.17	150.29	. . .	. . .
1886	2,500.00	1,728.54	36.60	274.69	. . .	410.93
1887	3,500.00	1,835.46	21.75	271.74	. . .	5.00
1888	3,000.00	2,388.30	46.15	283.57	. . .	. . .
1889	3,000.00	2,382.90	44.05	293.76	. . .	15.50
1890	3,000.00	2,631.12	42.30	327.91	. . .	1.50
1891	3,000.00	2,596.68	24.12	358.06	. . .	4.34
1892	4,000.00	1,003.97	33.90	420.13	. . .	4.00
1893	5.500.00	3,655.64	24.00	335.06	. . .	. . .
1894	6,500.00	2,710.90	12.40	320.82	. . .	. . .
1895	6,500.00	2,693.51	61.75	148.02	. . .	14.00
Total .	$64,639.38	$36,209.67	$554.99	$5,850.64	$102.80	$456.02



The sums of money received from fines, and from the sales of catalogues, were not separated until the year 1880. Until that year, therefore, the amount collected by the librarian appears as a gross sum in the column of fines.

Of the $410.93 found in the miscellaneous column for 1886, $409.73 was "transferred from interest account," and might properly be added to the appropriation column.

It will be seen that the city has appropriated $64,639.38 and the dog licenses, amounting to $36,209.67, and has transferred to the library account $409.73, making a total of $101,258.78.

It remains only to be said that every effort has been made and will be made to make our public library helpful to the best interests of the city. Ruskin says, "Valuable books should, in a civilized country, be within the reach of every one." We cannot boast that all valuable books are in our public library, but after a careful examination, no one will dispute that from the first a most discriminating care has been exercised in the selection of books, and that for practical usefulness up to the present time, considering the facilities and resources at command, our public library, if not unsurpassed, stands among those most deserving public commendation.

CONCLUSION.

Much of what has been said may seem commonplace. Indeed, throughout this report my purpose has been only this, namely, to give a succinct and clear statement of facts, in order that the advantages and attractions, the practical worth, and possible incentive for larger life pertaining to the Public Library, may be recognized and appreciated. The people of Somerville may be justly proud of those to whom they committed the conduct of public affairs, that they have taken such broad and generous views of the educational needs, not of the present merely but of the future, and have therefore made provision, so far as this library is concerned, for many years to come. But with a due sense of the wisdom of those in authority in the city government, I am glad to acknowledge the cordial and unanimous co-operation I have had from you, gentlemen of the Board of Trustees. Your generous consideration and sympathy have many times spurred me to more active zeal and enabled me to "take arms against

a sea of trouble," or if I am not justified in using the word "trouble," I may use the word "discouragement." I am also indebted to the public at large, especially as it has been voiced by the public press. It is exceedingly gratifying to me that I have thus had to so great an extent, the approval of those in whose behalf I have sought to further the efficiency of this library. In this expression of thanks I do not forget to include those, to whom I have already made a passing allusion, who have expressed their regret on account of the closing of the library during the summer. I am glad the criticism was made, since it has given opportunity to call attention to the facts that warranted the enforced delay in opening the library, and also because it shows that the advantages of the library are so appreciated that the temporary, though necessary, closing of its doors is felt to be a misfortune.

Still further permit me to add that I have had reason for special encouragement because of the appreciation of the teachers of our public schools, who have themselves or by their pupils following their advice, expressed their sense of the helpful service the library is designed to render, by a thoughtful and extended employment of its resources. Having for so many years shared in the varied experiences of a teacher, sometimes depressed by the burden of uncongenial toil, sometimes uplifted by the enthusiasm awakened by comparative success, I rejoice that in some way, however humble, I am permitted to be of assistance to those with whom I have been a co-laborer in seeking to stimulate and direct the intelligence, the activity, the individual and social education of the generation now seeking by an honest use of present advantages to attain a future of larger influence and more commanding promise.

And now I beg to submit my report to your considerate judgment, with the hope that the improved conditions of the library may lead to an improved use of it, since I am sure it is a reservoir of power, of activity, of inspiration and of life.

Lately the report has been current that Professor Roentgen, of Wurzburg University, has developed a means of utilizing radiant heat by developing a light which is said to have remarkable power of penetration, so that the very action of the brain may be disclosed, and we may, as it were, see a man think.

Whatever of truth this may have, it cannot be disputed that there is a light, the so-called light of pure reason, the dry light of ancient

philosophy, which dissolves as in a magic solvent all things, and gives to the eye of human intelligence a collyrium that heals blindness and reveals a new glory in earth and sky. For the nourishment of such light, before which other lights shall pale their ineffectual fires, this library has been provided. May we guard it with vigilance, may its light be intensified by accumulation of power, until thinking shall be harmonious communion with truth, and life, resting upon the summit of great thoughts, be bathed in the radiance of that dry light, the light of pure reason, which shall give intellectual knowledge and wisdom.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN S. HAYES,

December 30, 1895. *Librarian.*



THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 16305
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1898.

TWENTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Compliments of

JOHN S. HAYES,

Librarian,

SOMERVILLE, MASS.



ROBINSON PRESS, 91 OLIVER STREET, BOSTON,
WARREN J. ROBINSON, Mgr.
1897.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 16305
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1896.

TWENTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY,

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE,

MASSACHUSETTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

ROBINSON PRESS, 91 OLIVER STREET, BOSTON,
WARREN J. ROBINSON, Mgr.
1897.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, January 13, 1897.

Referred to the Committee on Printing, to be printed in the Annual Reports. Sent down for concurrence.

GEORGE I. VINCENT, *Clerk.*

IN COMMON COUNCIL, January 13, 1897.

Referred to the Committee on Printing, to be printed in the Annual Reports, in concurrence.

CHARLES S. ROBERTSON, *Clerk.*

[illegible] PUBLIC LIBRARY,
[illegible]
BY.....
ACK'D.....
BY.....

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

OF THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1896.

TRUSTEES.

CHARLES S. LINCOLN. ELIJAH C. CLARK.
J. HENRY FLITNER. JOHN B. VIALL.
CHRISTOPHER E. RYMES. CHARLES A. WEST.
CHARLES H. BROWN. J. FRANK WELLINGTON.
CHARLES W. SAWYER.

OFFICERS.

CHARLES S. LINCOLN *President.*
JOHN S. HAYES *Secretary.*

COMMITTEES.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS. — Rymes, Viall, Brown and Wellington.

ADMINISTRATION. — Clark, Sawyer and Wellington.

BOOKS AND CATALOGUES. — Lincoln, *ex officio*, Rymes, Viall, Brown and West.

FINANCE. — Flitner, Clark and Sawyer.

LIBRARIAN.

JOHN S. HAYES.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN.

CLARA L. BIDWELL.

ASSISTANTS.

ANNA L. STONE. MARY J. WARREN.

CATALOGUER.

F. MABEL NORCROSS.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR 1896.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1895	$120.34
Appropriation	8,000.00
Dog Licenses	2,506.29
Fines	318.73
Catalogues	71.60
	$11,016.96

DEBIT.

Books and periodicals		$3,216.80	
Binding		773.32	
Catalogue cards		31.40	
Printing		87.55	
Stationery		46.35	
Salaries: Administrative dept.	$3,329.66		
Cataloguing dept.	567.28		
		3,896.94	
Branch office		33.33	
Furniture		110.65	
Repairs		142.25	
Express		147.75	
Electric lighting		244.72	
Gas		48.34	
Water		26.00	
Fuel		341.58	
Insurance		27.00	
Disbursements		63.10	
Postage		36.00	
Printing Finding List, 1895		1,623.92	
Book pockets		10.65	
Binders for periodicals		35.22	
Boxes for agencies		37.86	
Typewriter		26.00	
Balance to 1897		10.21	
			$11,016.96



CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

To the Board of Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Somerville:—

Gentlemen,—It is quite unnecessary for the Board of Trustees of the Public Library to make any elaborate report concerning the condition and work of the Public Library. We are gratified to be able to endorse fully the carefully prepared report of our Librarian and Secretary, and to regard it, although addressed to us, as substantially our report to you.

During the past year the people of Somerville have manifested a commendable interest in our library by a very much enlarged use of its volumes, both in private houses, and in the public schools. The increased circulation, which might be regarded as phenomenal were it not that by comparison with previous years it indicates a steady growth in a practical and intelligent apprehension of the resources at our command, involves enlarged expenses. Books on the shelves have little injury, but books in the hand, and in many hands, are subject to more or less wear. Increased circulation calls for new books, for a constantly increasing amount of money for repairing and rebinding books, and for additional library force, that the public needs may be met without unnecessary delay.

Aside from these demands that must be met, there is immediate and pressing need for a Card Catalogue for the public use, to which the librarian makes special and emphatic reference in his report. We recommend what he says. We are satisfied that the resources of the library cannot be exhibited and utilized without the special catalogue called for, and which we had hoped

to have supplied before this time, but the fund at our disposal would not permit us to order it.

We, therefore, ask your honorable body to grant, for the special needs above mentioned, and for the ordinary running expenses of the library, the same appropriation granted last year, as the smallest sum, with which we can manage the affairs of the department committed to our care, namely, eight thousand dollars and the dog tax.

In conclusion, the Trustees, while acknowledging their personal responsibility to their fellow citizens for the management of the trust submitted to their charge, place great dependence upon the principal librarian and secretary, and it is proper to say that he has ever performed his duties with intelligence, fidelity, and zeal. The trustees are also glad to be able to add that his assistants have heartily co-operated with him in his work. It may be said, without any reservation, that the affairs of our Public Library are admirably conducted, with increasing appreciation on the part of our entire community.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES S. LINCOLN,
President.

December 31, 1896.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Trustees of Somerville Public Library:—

Gentlemen,—In conformity with your rules, I have the honor to submit my report on the condition and management of the library for the official year ending December 31, 1896, this being my own fourth annual report, and the twenty-fourth annual report of the Library.

It is with pleasure that I am able to state that the library is in good condition, materially increased in size, and apparently more fully appreciated and intelligently used by our fellow citizens than ever before.

It is also gratifying to state that the past year emphasizes the fact that the changes and improvements made under your direction, within the past few years, have proved to be conspicuously useful and wise. The thoughtful consideration of the affairs of the library with a steady practical end in view has been recognized by the public at large, not in words simply, but in availing itself of the facilities which you have provided. The best praise is often that which is unspoken. Ruskin in one of his letters writes: "There is no dodge in Titian. It is simply right doing with a care and dexterity alike unpractised among us nowadays." With but little change, this note of approval may be repeated concerning all who have had to do with the work of this library. "Care and dexterity" have been practised and to-day all enjoy the fruition of the labors which honored the past.

CIRCULATION.

During the past year there have been no interruptions in the legitimate work of the library, and it has been open to the public every day, except Sundays and holidays, 306 days in all.

The number of volumes taken out for home use has been 148,193, of these 11,162 were distributed through the West Somerville agency, 3,482 through the agency at East Somerville, and 8,939 to the several large Grammar school buildings.

The agency at West Somerville was re-opened March 2, and at East Somerville April 14, where the books have been collected and distributed each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Boxes have been sent to the schools once each week during term time.

The circulation of books for the year is unprecedented in the history of this library, being forty per cent. larger than any preceding year, while the gain in the last half of the year 1896 is fifty-eight per cent. greater than the last six months of any other year.

I am inclined to think that this large increase is the result of natural causes. While we should not expect or desire this rate of increase to continue, we should strive to place the rich resources of our shelves in the family of every citizen of this city.

It is very evident that the patrons of this library fully appreciate what you have already done to make the books easily accessible. The classification of the books in the library, the new Finding List, the Monthly Bulletin, and the two-book card have made it possible to distribute over 148,000 volumes, where less than 100,000 volumes were given out before.

The smallest number of books distributed in any one day was February 6, when 164 were delivered, and two days later, February 8, the largest daily charge was made, 1,135. The average daily circulation for the year was 484 volumes.

During the month of August 9,034 books were issued, which was the lightest month of the year, and December was the largest in the history of the library, having a circulation of 16,194 books.

YEARLY CIRCULATION.

While it is true that the benefits derived from the use of the books cannot be reckoned in coin, expressed in tables, or described by the pen, it may be interesting, however, to see to what

extent the public make use of the books in the library, and the number of books circulated from year to year.

Tables of figures are often misleading, and the following one will be, unless it is borne in mind that during the past twenty-four years of the library the figures representing the circulation have not always had the same meaning. During many years it was the rule to add the number of books taken from the shelves for consultation in the library, to the circulation, and also to count a renewed book the same as a book taken out, although it may not have left the shelf but once.

For the past three years, the word "circulation" means the number of volumes taken out for home use. It should also be borne in mind that the library was closed nearly three months during the year 1885, and more than four months during the year 1895.

1873	18,047
1874	35,202
1875	39,025
1876	46,855
1877	57,682
1878	61,076
1879	63,215
1880	67,894
1881	67,649
1882	67,673
1883	70,531
1884	72,591
1885	65,450
1886	77,610
1887	79,062
1888	80,697
1889	88,381
1890	95,127
1891	95,248
1892	93,451
1893	93,213
1894	106,341
1895	68,231
1896	148,193
	1,758,444

NEW BOOKS.

We have added to the library during the year 5,016 volumes, and 175 volumes have been discarded or lost, making a net increase of 4,841 volumes. The number of volumes in the library, at the present time, exclusive of public documents, duplicates and pamphlets in the duplicate room, is 33,826 volumes. Of these volumes, 193 were gifts to the library, 267 were received in exchange for duplicates, 242 by binding serials, 572 by binding pamphlets and paper-covered books, and 3,742 by purchase.

While it has been our careful plan to add desirable books to each department of the library, and while it is true that many costly and valuable volumes have been purchased during the year, we have bought largely duplicates of those books already in the library that were constantly in circulation, considering it better to add books that we know would be called for, rather than those we were not sure would be used. Five copies of one book constantly in circulation are much to be preferred, under ordinary circumstances, to five volumes of different books that are rarely called for. So long as the reading public will keep five copies of Uncle Tom's Cabin in circulation it is good policy to have at least six copies in the library. Other works of specific value, but of restricted use, need no duplicates.

As to the ordinary publications of the day, notably novels, great care has been exercised to restrict purchase, unless the books offered are by authors of marked repute. It should not be expected that the library shall purchase every book as soon as published. The funds at our disposal would not permit any such course, and it is desirable, moreover, not to load our shelves with volumes for which there may be only a transient demand. If, after the novelty of its publication has worn away, a work holds its place, as of more than passing worth, in the estimation of the public, the demand should regulate the supply.

Another matter, worthy of note in this connection, is that the purchase of books should be for the general public, for those who do not confine their reading altogether to fiction. It is a matter of congratulation that many books, aside from novels,

are increasingly called for, such as travels, biographies, essays, poetry and history.

REBINDING.

The record for the year shows a continued increase in the number of books sent to the binder to be re-covered, and also the number worn out and discarded is greater than previous years.

While there is a vast difference in the way borrowers of books treat public property, many using them with the utmost care, while others seem to have no feeling of responsibility, it rarely happens that sufficient damage appears to be done by any one person to render him liable for the expense of rebinding. The binding bill is no small item in our annual expenses, and it is evident as the age of your books increases, and your circulation multiplies, a larger appropriation will be needed for this purpose.

During the past year 2,225 volumes have been sent to the bindery. Of this number 242 were magazines and periodicals, 472 paper-covered books and pamphlets, and 1,411 volumes were from the circulating department.

DONATIONS.

The library has received as gifts during the year 169 volumes, 219 pamphlets and 987 periodicals; also a fine copy of Draper's Map of Somerville, 1852.

This map was presented by the late Capt. Thomas Cunningham.

LIST OF DONATIONS.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Adams, Mrs. L. K.	1	..	12
American Humane Society of Vivisection	..	1	..
Amherst College	..	1	..
Atkinson, Edward	1	..	..
Benton, J. H., Jr.	1	..	..
Bigelow, C. H.	1	..	..
Blinn, H. C.	..	1	..
Bolton, C. K.	1	..	..
Boston, City of	3	..	..
Boston Globe	1	..	..
Boston Public Library	..	1	10
Brigham, W. E.	..	..	10
Brockton Public Library	..	1	..
Brookline Public Library	1	2	12
Cambridge, City of	1	..	..
Cambridge Public Library	..	1	10
Carnegie Public Library	..	1	..
Central Club	1	..	..
Chicago Civil Service Reform Commission	..	1	..
Chicago Public Library	..	1	..
Christian Register	..	..	52
Cincinnati Public Library	..	1	..
Cleveland Public Library	..	3	..
Clinton Public Library	..	2	..
Concord Public Library	..	1	..
Cooke, J. P.	..	..	..
Cunningham, Thomas, 1 map	..	1	..
Cunningham, Mrs. Thomas	..	25	..
Cushman, W. H.	..	..	2
Cutter, F. R.	..	..	15
Danvers Peabody Institute	..	..	1
Davis, T. A.	1	..	..
DeCosta, Rev. B. F.	1	..	..
Detroit Public Library	..	1	..
Dover Public Library	..	1	2
Elliot, C. D.	1	..	..
Elliot, Mary E.	1	..	..
Emerson, J. S.	..	..	3
Enoch Pratt Free Library	..	1	..
Fall River Public Library	..	1	..
Fitchburg Public Library	..	3	..
Forbes Library, Northampton	..	1	..
Gildehaus, Charles, St. Louis	..	..	..
Grand Commandery K. T. of Massachusetts	1	..	..
Gypsy Moth Commission	1	..	..
Hachenberg, G. P.	1	..	..
Hartford Public Library	1	..	10

LIST OF DONATIONS — *Continued.*

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Harvard College	2	..	..
Hayes, J. S.	12	..	..
Hayes, Lydia Y.	1	..	..
Hill, W. P.	..	1	..
Home Market Club	..	..	12
Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans	4	15	..
Indian Rights Association	..	5	..
Jersey City Public Library	..	1	3
Jones, Miss E. K.	..	1	..
Jones, L. H.	..	1	..
Journal Publishing Co.	1	..	104
Kimball, F. M.	6	..	..
Kingsley Woman's Relief Corps	1	..	..
Ladies' Commission S. S. books	..	2	..
Lancaster Public Library	..	1	..
Lawrence, Gen. S. C.	1	..	..
Lawrence Public Library	..	1	5
Lee & Shepard	5	..	12
Leffingwell, A.	..	1	..
Leominster Public Library	..	1	..
Lexington Historical Society	1	..	..
Littleton Public Library	..	1	..
Lynn Public Library	..	1	12
McNamie, J. H. H.	1	..	..
Malden Public Library	..	1	..
Manchester, N. H., Public Library	..	1	..
Massachusetts, State of	25	..	2
Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics' Association	1	..	..
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1	..	..
Maynard, W. A.	2	..	51
Medford Public Library	..	1	3
Melrose Public Library	..	1	..
Merrill, Mrs. I. P.	..	2	..
Milwaukee Public Library	..	1	..
Minneapolis, City of	1	..	..
Morrison, M. L.	1	..	..
Murray, William	1	..	..
National Civil Service Reform League	..	1	..
New Bedford Public Library	1	..	12
New Haven Public Library	1	..	..
New London Public Library	..	..	12
New York State Library	2	..	..
Newark Public Library	1	2	10
Newport, R. I., Redwood Library	..	1	..
Newton Public Library	..	1	..
North Adams Public Library	..	1	..
Norwich, Conn., Otis Library	..	1	6
Our Outlook	..	..	36
Parker, F. W.	..	1	..
Patterson Public Library	..	1	1

LIST OF DONATIONS — *Concluded.*

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Peabody Institute	..	1	..
People, New York	..	..	52
Perkins Institute of the Blind	1	..	..
Portland, Oregon, Public Library	..	..	6
Poughkeepsie Public Library	..	1	..
Providence Athenaeum	..	1	8
Providence Public Library	..	1	12
Quincy Public Library	..	1	..
Radiator, High School	..	..	5
Raymond & Whitcomb	..	15	..
Rich, S. M.	..	..	2
Ricker & Sons	1	..	..
Rochester, N. Y., Reynolds Library	..	2	..
St. Louis Public Library	..	2	..
Salem Public Library	1	1	12
San Francisco Public Library	..	1	8
Sanford, P. B.	1	9	..
Sawyer, C. W.	1	..	..
Scranton Public Library, Pennsylvania	..	1	2
Scull and Field	..	2	..
Seattle Public Library	..	1	..
Smith, Rev. C. M.	1	..	..
Somerville, City of	1	..	..
Southworth, G. A.	1	1	..
Springfield Public Library	..	1	12
Stone, F. W.	..	..	13
Syracuse Public Library	..	1	..
Taunton Public Library	..	1	..
Thompson, B. F.	1	..	..
Thurston, E. L.	1	..	..
Tilton, F. L.	1	..	..
Titus, Anson	..	1	..
Traveller's Insurance Co.	..	..	12
Tufts College	3	..	25
Tyner, Paul	..	1	..
United Societies, Manifesto	..	..	12
United States Government	41	66	154
University of Pennsylvania	1	..	..
Upham, Warren, Minn.	..	3	..
Valentine, H. E.	1	..	..
Viall, J. B.	..	..	158
Vincent, G. I.	..	1	..
Waltham Public Library	..	1	7
Washington Lodge, A. F. and A. M.	1	..	..
Wellington, J. F.	3	..	..
West, C. A.	3	..	..
West and Jenny	..	..	12
Wheeler, J.	..	1	..
Williams, J. P.	..	..	296
Willis, C. W.	1	..	..
Woburn Public Library	..	2	..
	169	219	987

CARD CATALOGUE.

It may not be necessary for me to again call your attention to the urgent need for a Card Catalogue for the use of those who frequent the library. In previous reports I have explained its importance, and what I have already said I need not repeat, because I think we all agree that it is impossible to make any ready and easy use of books without one. Old fashioned ways have given place to new and improved methods. I have no desire to have any change made in any direction because of its novelty, but this change which has come about with large advantage in other libraries seems to me imperatively demanded for us. Either the public must be contented to be incommoded, or the force of assistants greatly increased, or this Catalogue immediately provided.

I am confident you recognize the correctness of all I have ever said on this subject, and that the only question that arises is as to ways and means. It is my firm conviction that the preparation of a Card Catalogue should be begun forthwith if we are watchful, as it is expected we should be, for the best interests of the library in its service of the people.

Of course this will occasion considerable outlay, and I trust and confidently expect that the city government, loyal to the moral and intellectual character of the city, will make the appropriation for the coming year large enough to enable us to begin the work at once, with a sufficiently large force to complete it during the year.

LIBRARY BULLETIN.

We have published the Bulletin each month during the year, excepting July and August, and also an extra Fiction Number of twelve pages. It has proved a wise and judicious investment of time and money. I am confident that it has increased the circulation of books, and materially improved the character of the reading.

We have not only published the lists of new books bought, but we have given special Reading Lists on subjects in which

students and readers are, or should be, particularly interested. These lists have perceptibly added to the usefulness of the library by calling attention to many books, which would otherwise remain idle or but little used, and many persons have thereby been introduced to some of the more helpful and interesting works in the library.

The special Fiction Number contains the names of all the works of fiction, arranged under authors, added to the library up to the present time, since the Finding List was printed. It will prove a great convenience to the reader of fiction.

The Bulletin has also contained three annotated special Fiction Lists of new books.

The following is the list of topics upon which special reading lists have been published during the year:

Armenian Question.
Arbor Day.
Best Books of 1895.
Botany.
Burgoyne's Campaign.
Christmas.
Coffin, Charles C.
Financial Situation.
Hawaii and the Sandwich Islands.
Hallowe'en.
Joan of Arc.
Kindergarten.
Lincoln, Abraham.
List of Boys' Books.
Memorial Day.
Monroe Doctrine.
Municipal Government.
New England.
Nicaragua and Venezuela.
Our Country.
Patriots' Day.
Periodicals in the Library.
Special Fiction Lists.
Summer Reading.
Summer Sports.
Thanksgiving Day.
Valentine's Day.
Washington, George.

REFERENCE ROOM.

There has been a marked increase, from month to month, in the number of those using the reference room. It is evident that it was a wise thing to have it open, during fixed hours and under the charge of a competent attendant who could assist those who resorted to it.

Special effort should be made to make known the possibilities of this part of our library. It should be the common resort of those who desire to persue special studies or to confirm facts which they have gathered. As its advantages become more widely known it will doubtless be necessary to open it to readers and students for the same length of time that the circulating library is open, with the possible exception of Wednesday and Saturday evenings. It is evident to my mind that there must be many in a community as intelligent as ours who would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity to use on the spot, in the library itself, books to which their attention has been especially called. The habit of consulting books is the foundation of a broad education. The important value of it will be conceded by every intelligent reader. This is not to say that a reading community is necessarily a wise community, but to deliberately emphasize the converse statement, that a wise community will be a reading community, if the doors of such a library as ours are thrown wide open for special and careful consultation of standard works of reference.

LIBRARY NOTICES.

In several sections of the city a neatly framed and attractive notice, bearing a good picture of this library building, headed: "The Public Library is the People's University," has been set in a conspicuous place, calling attention to the library, and giving the hours it is open to the public. A Finding List in many instances is kept near the notice and is open for consultation at any time.

It is desirable, since all the people contribute to the support of the library, that no section should feel itself debarred from its benefits. Every legitimate method should be pursued to bring the Public Library near to every individual composing the public. No individual should feel neglected or handicapped in the use of an institution which can give so much information and entertainment.

So important has this seemed that I have at times considered if it would not be well to have a simple and inexpensive circular,

embodying the library notices, sent to every home, or so delivered as not to incur unusual expense. Our monthly bulletins, however, are doing a good work in this direction.

SCHOOL DELIVERIES.

In response to the petition presented to your board, by the teachers of our public schools, books have been delivered and collected at the several large Grammar schools once each week during a part of the year. The accompanying figures will show to what extent the schools have availed themselves of the accommodation.

When it is considered that all pupils, above the seventh grade in our schools, are entitled to library cards, and that each teacher can take out six books at one time, for school use, the number of books sent to the schools may appear to you to be too small, and would hardly warrant the extra time and expense attending the experiment.

I am clearly of the opinion, however, that the library and the schools should work together to bring our youth in touch with the best books. It was not the design of this movement to get the pupils to read books, regardless of their character, but to bring the reading of the children to a certain extent under the eye of the teacher, that he might by suggestion direct the pupil in a wise and judicious choice of books, and thus make the library supplement the instruction of the school.

There can be no question in a thoughtful mind that the habit of reading good books, and the cultivation of a love for our best literature, are, next to the development of a worthy character, the greatest good a school can do for its pupils, and they are worth infinitely more to the child than a complete knowledge of partial payments or the binomial theorem. When parents and teachers realize that a love for good books is of more worth than scoring high per cents., and a desire for knowledge is preferable to perfect attendance, then the usefulness of the public library as an educational factor will be felt.

A bright teacher has aptly said: "If the teacher is to carry on her work to the best advantage, she needs the librarian and the library, and the librarian needs the teacher and the school. There must be a spirit of sympathy and co-operation between teacher and librarian. The teacher must be the inspirer, the finder of interest, the guide to the individual; the librarian must stand ready to meet the demands inspired by the teacher and must do all he can to keep enthusiasm alive, and working together they may, through the children, reach out into the homes. First of all, the teacher must be a reader, and especially of children's books. How can she quicken interest in the children, if she does not possess that interest herself? How can she help her children to get the best there is in a book, if she herself does not know what is in it?"

"It is not enough that the children read the books, they must be taught how to use them and learn to read them, Poetry for its music, beauty, inspiration and passion; Fiction for its lessons in life and character; Essays and books read in relation to school work, for information and thought. The teacher must arouse the children's sympathies, help them to admire and love the noblest, encourage them to do and to be, not by preaching and examining, but by heart to heart talks over things which have appealed to their best interests and aroused their most generous aspiration. Often failure in this work is due to the fact that the teacher does not know how to read. She is enthusiastic, sees the value of the library, but is discouraged and helpless when it comes to the How. The children lose interest, the reading is made a task, and the books are not read. The teacher is fitted for the work neither by practice nor training."

The number of books circulated, therefore, cannot indicate the wisdom of the movement. The voluntary testimony of many teachers convinces me that in many schools of the city the Public Library has been of great assistance in the correct education of our youth, and many are forming habits of the proper use of books, and cultivating a love for our best literature.

I trust you will continue the delivery of books at the schools, in some form, feeling confident that in time you will see a marked improvement in the character of the books our children use.

DELIVERY AT THE SCHOOLS.

		Deliveries.	Books.	Average.
1.	Edgerly	28	1,659	59
2.	Knapp	28	1,464	52
3.	Forster	28	1,302	46.5
4.	Hodgkins	11	385	35
5.	Glines	2	69	34.5
6.	Morse	28	951	34
7.	Prescott	28	916	32.7
8.	Highland	28	834	29.7
9.	Pope	28	795	28
10.	Bell	24	564	23.5
			8,939	38.3

ADDITIONAL AGENCIES.

The public, accommodated by the two agencies you have established, fully appreciate the efforts you have made in their behalf, and I am clear in my own mind that it is a wise expenditure of time and money.

It must have occurred to each of you that there are many localities in this city that are largely deprived of the benefits of the library, and which need and are entitled to the same privileges and accommodation as those extended to residents in the vicinity of Davis Square and East Somerville.

The following locations are suggested as the centre of a population that would appreciate, and be greatly benefited should you open agencies there:—Concord Square, Park Street (near Beacon), Oak Square, Teele Square or some place nearer College Hill, Magoun Square, and the vicinity of the Jackson School.

I would, therefore, suggest that you consider the feasibility of opening at least five more agencies, as soon as the funds at your disposal will warrant the additional expense.

YEARLY ACCESSIONS.

It may be of interest to note the additions of books to the library each year since it was started, as found recorded in the Accession catalogue. These figures denote the total accessions, and include the volumes worn out, lost, or withdrawn.

The library was open to the public May 1, 1873, with 2,384 volumes on its shelves.

	Added Each Year.	Accession No. Dec. 31, of Each Year.
Volumes May 1, 1873	2,384	
Added during 1873	1,251	3,635
" 1874	1,027	4,662
" 1875	573	5,235
" 1876	602	5,837
" 1877	853	6,690
" 1878	749	7,439
" 1879	515	7,954
" 1880	660	8,614
" 1881	668	9,282
" 1882	770	10,052
" 1883	913	10,965
" 1884	859	11,824
" 1885	964	12,788
" 1886	1,150	13,938
" 1887	1,165	15,103
" 1888	1,846	16,949
" 1889	1,346	18,295
" 1890	1,817	20,112
" 1891	1,432	21,544
" 1892	1,648	23,192
" 1893	1,677	24,869
" 1894	2,860	27,729
" 1895	4,010	31,739
" 1896	5,016	36,755
Total number Dec. 31, 1896	36,755 volumes.	

The number of books worn out, discarded and lost since the library was started appears to be 2,929 volumes, making the number of volumes at the present time 33,826.

YEARLY APPROPRIATIONS AND COLLECTIONS.

	Appropriations.	Dog Licenses.	Catalogues.	Fines.	Gifts.	Miscellaneous.
Before 1872	$ 2,237.76		. . .		. . .	. . .
1872	1,139.33		. . .		. . .	. . .
1873	4,000.00		. . .	$ 146.80	$100.00	. . .
1874	1,162.29		. . .	237.59	2.80	$.75
1875	1,000.00	$ 1,269.96	. . .	245.14	. . .	. . .
1876		1,260.29	. . .	216.46	. . .	. . .
1877	1,500.00	1,362.30	. . .	206.18	. . .	. . .
1878	1,200.00	1,080.85	. . .	224.07	. . .	. . .
1879	1,200.00	936.10	. . .	260.20	. . .	. . .
1880	1,500.00	934.23	$ 46.74	231.92	. . .	. . .
1881	1,200.00	927.13	29.72	205.10	. . .	. . .
1882	1,500.00	1,018.37	28.80	236.71	. . .	. . .
1883	1,500.00	1,083.63	31.30	241.56	. . .	. . .
1884	1,500.00	1,307.75	34.24	214.86	. . .	. . .
1885	2,500 00	1,402.04	37.17	150.29	. . .	. . .
1886	2,500.00	1,728.54	36.60	274.69	. . .	410.93
1887	3,500.00	1,835.46	21.75	271.74	. . .	5.00
1888	3,000.00	2,388.30	46.15	283.57	. . .	. . .
1889	3,000.00	2,382.90	44.05	293.76	. . .	15.50
1890	3,000.00	2,631.12	42.30	327.91	. . .	1.50
1891	3,000.00	2,596.68	24.12	358.06	. . .	4.34
1892	4,000.00	1,003.97	33.90	420.13	. . .	4.00
1893	5,500 00	3,655.64	24.00	335.06	. . .	. . .
1894	6,500.00	2,710.90	12.40	320.82	. . .	. . .
1895	6,500.00	2,693.51	61.75	148.02	. . .	14.00
1896	8,000.00	2,506.26	71.60	318.72	. . .	. . .
Total .	$72,639.38	$38,715.93	$626.59	$ 6,169.36	$102.80	$456.02

COMPARISON WITH SOME OTHER CITIES.

The following tables have been compiled from the Report of the Free Public Library Commission of Massachusetts for 1896, and include twenty-five cities and the town of Brookline.

I submit these figures without note or comment, for your inspection, feeling confident they will prove intensely interesting, and possibly instructive reading.

It should be observed, however, that the figures indicating circulation in the case of our library are those for the year 1896, as we were closed to the public a part of the year 1895.

	1894—'95.	Population 1895.	Valuation 1895.	Volumes.	Circulation.	Appropriation.	Salaries and Services.
	State . .	2,500,000	$2,542,348,000	3,139,637	6,267,000	$437,395	$275,474.00
	Middlesex Co.	500,000	450,012,000	617,164	1,461,518	82,735	51,550.00
1	Boston . .	497,000	951,368,000	610,375	832,113	155,000	94,139.00
2	Worcester .	98,767	88,065,866	100,000	158,822	23,360	12,600.93
3	Fall River .	89,208	65,238,178	47,422	109,343	5,500	2,626.15
4	Lowell . .	84,367	68,782,042	50,000	151,907	15,000	7,468.43
5	Cambridge .	81,643	80,911,000	46,770	119,631	10,000	6,330.74
6	Lynn . . .	62,354	49,698,000	49,616	130,557	4,500	4,543.01
7	New Bedford	55,251	52,643,000	65,000	104,591	6,450	6,973.75
8	Somerville .	52,200	46,454,000	29,000	106,341	6,500	3,612.87
9	Lawrence .	52,164	33,533,500	37,999	124,724	6,500	4,170.78
10	Springfield .	51,522	59,033,000	90,444	150,796	17,000	8,898.45
11	Holyoke .	40,322	27,705,000	17,325	47,268	3,000	1,209.45
12	Salem . .	34,473	28,847,000	29,434	112,349	10,000	5,285.77
13	Brockton .	33,165	22,541,000	20,850	83,132	5,400	3,438.25
14	Chelsea . .	31,264	22,515,000	14,439	67,483	4,500	2,056.15
15	Haverhill .	30,209	20,793,000	55,400	80,392	3,280	2,567.58
16	Malden . .	29,708	20,072,000	25,155	92,085	5,000	2,975.01
17	Newton . .	27,590	47,388,000	46,755	143,887	14,675	5,788.88
18	Taunton . .	27,115	19,203,000	40,500	73,009	4,500	2,737.66
19	Fitchburg .	26,409	19,855,000	30,000	61,386	4,500	2,955.54
20	Quincy . .	20,712	17,326,000	17,500	73,442	4,270	2,470.00
21	Waltham .	20,876	18,052,000	22,916	62,845	1,600	1,456.70
22	Pittsfield .	20,461	18,850,000	23,000	60,000	2,000	2,436.73
23	No. Adams .	19,135	7,329,000	13,830	73,944	4,500	1,475.23
24	Brookline .	16,164	59,003,000	41,955	83,222	12,000	5,548.96
25	Medford .	14,474	16,979,000	16,347	51,439	3,500	1,941.09
26	Woburn . .	14,178	9,673,000	33,203	66,130	2,200	2,866.32

COST OF CIRCULATION.

The following table indicates the relative cost of distributing books, using the amount paid for "salaries and services" as the basis of comparison. Cost of each volume circulated for home use:—

State of Massachusetts 4.3 cents.
County of Middlesex 3.4 "

1.	Boston, .	10 cents.	14.	Medford, .	3.8 cents.
2.	Worcester, .	7 "	15.	Taunton, .	3.7 "
3.	New Bedford,	6.7 "	16.	Lynn, .	3.4 "
4.	Brookline, .	6.6 "	17.	Lawrence, .	3.3 "
5.	Springfield, .	5.9 "	18.	Quincy, .	3.3 "
6.	Cambridge, .	5.3 "	19.	Malden, .	3.2 "
7.	Lowell, .	4.9 "	20.	Chelsea, .	3 "
8.	Fitchburg, .	4.8 "	21.	Haverhill, .	3 "
9.	Salem, .	4.7 "	22.	Somerville, .	2.6 "
10.	Brockton, .	4 "	23.	Holyoke, .	2.5 "
11.	Newton, .	4 "	24.	Waltham, .	2.3 "
12.	Pittsfield, .	4 "	25.	Fall River, .	2.3 "
13.	Woburn, .	4 "	26.	No. Adams, .	2 "

RATIO OF CIRCULATION TO NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN LIBRARY.

This table shows the number of times the volumes in each library were circulated during the year:—

	State of Massachusetts	2.			
	County of Middlesex	2.2			
1.	North Adams, .	5.6	14.	Cambridge, . .	2.6
2.	Chelsea, . .	4.8	15.	Pittsfield, . .	2.6
3.	Somerville, . .	4.5	16.	Lynn, . . .	2.4
4.	Brockton, . .	4.1	17.	Fall River, . .	2.3
5.	Quincy, . .	4	18.	Fitchburg, . .	2
6.	Salem, . . .	3.8	19.	Brookline, . .	2
7.	Malden, . .	3.6	20.	Woburn, . .	2
8.	Lawrence, . .	3.3	21.	Taunton, . .	1.8
9.	Medford, . .	3.2	22.	Springfield, . .	1.7
10.	Newton, . .	3.1	23.	New Bedford, .	1.6
11.	Lowell, . .	3	24.	Worcester, . .	1.5
12.	Waltham, . .	2.8	25.	Haverhill, . .	1.4
13.	Holyoke, . .	2.7	26.	Boston, . .	1.3

RATIO OF CIRCULATION TO POPULATION.

This table shows the circulation of books, as compared with number of inhabitants:—

	State of Massachusetts	2.5 vols.			
	Middlesex County	2.9 "			
1.	Newton, .	5.2 vols.	14.	Taunton, .	2.7 vols.
2.	Brookline, .	5.1 "	15.	Haverhill, .	2.6 "
3.	Woburn, .	4.7 "	16.	Brockton, .	2.5 "
4.	No. Adams, .	3.8 "	17.	Lynn, . .	2.5 "
5.	Medford, .	3.6 "	18.	Lawrence, .	2.3 "
6.	Quincy, .	3.6 "	19.	Chelsea, .	2.1 "
7.	Malden, .	3.4 "	20.	New Bedford,	1.8 "
8.	Brockton, .	3.2 "	21.	Boston, . .	1.7 "
9.	Salem, . .	3.2 "	22.	Lowell, . .	1.7 "
10.	Waltham, .	3.1 "	23.	Worcester, .	1.6 "
11.	Pittsfield, .	3 "	24.	Cambridge, .	1.4 "
12.	Springfield, .	2.9 "	25.	Fall River, .	1.2 "
13.	Somerville, .	2.8 "	26.	Holyoke, .	1.1 "

RATIO OF APPROPRIATION TO POPULATION.

The following figures show the amount appropriated by the several cities, for their public libraries, for each inhabitant:—

State of Massachusetts, ... 17 cents.
County of Middlesex, ... 16 "

1.	Brookline,	75 cents.	13.	Brockton,	16 cents.
2.	Newton,	54 "	14.	Taunton,	16 "
3.	Springfield,	33 "	15.	Woburn,	15 "
4.	Boston,	31 "	16.	Chelsea,	14 "
5.	Salem,	29 "	17.	Cambridge,	12 "
6.	Medford,	25 "	18.	Somerville,	12 "
7.	No. Adams,	23 "	19.	Lawrence,	12 "
8.	Worcester,	23 "	20.	New Bedford,	11 "
9.	Quincy,	21 "	21.	Haverhill,	10 "
10.	Lowell,	17 "	22.	Pittsfield.	10 "
11.	Malden,	17 "	23.	Waltham,	8 "
12.	Fitchburg,	17 "	24.	Lynn,	7 "

The following have more than one thousand dollars annual income, from invested funds, for the current expenses of their library:—

Boston	$12,391
New Bedford	3,966
Woburn	3,294
Springfield	2,977
Pittsfield	2,976
Salem	2,690
Fall River	2,389
Haverhill	2,375
Newton	1,848
Malden	1,681
Lawrence	1,228

RATIO OF APPROPRIATION TO VALUATION.

This table shows the amount appropriated for public libraries on each dollar of taxable property:—

	State of Massachusetts	.00017			
	County of Middlesex	.00018			
1.	No. Adams, .	.00054	14.	Chelsea, . .	.00017
2.	Salem, . .	34	15.	Medford, . .	17
3.	Newton, . .	27	16.	Boston, . .	15
4.	Worcester, .	26	17.	Haverhill, .	14
5.	Quincy, . .	23	18.	Pittsfield, . .	14
6.	Brockton, .	22	19.	Somerville, .	13
7.	Taunton, , .	21	20.	Cambridge, .	12
8.	Malden, . .	21	21.	New Bedford, .	11
9.	Lowell, . .	20	22.	Holyoke, .	10
10.	Springfield, .	20	23.	Woburn, . .	10
11.	Fitchburg, .	20	24.	Lynn, . .	08
12.	Brookline, .	20	25.	Fall River, .	07
13.	Lawrence, .	17	26.	Waltham, .	05

RATIO OF VOLUMES IN LIBRARY TO POPULATION.

This table shows the number of volumes in the several libraries, for each inhabitant:—

	State of Massachusetts	1.25			
	County of Middlesex	1.23			
1.	Brookline, . .	2.60	14.	Quincy, . .	.87
2.	Woburn, . .	2.30	15.	Salem, . .	.86
3.	Springfield, . .	1.77	16.	Malden, . .	.86
4.	Haverhill, . .	1.80	17.	Lynn, . . .	.80
5.	Newton, . .	1.70	18.	Lawrence, . .	.73
6.	Taunton, . .	1.50	19.	North Adams, .	.70
7.	Boston, . .	1.22	20.	Brockton, . .	.60
8.	New Bedford, .	1.18	21.	Lowell, . .	.59
9.	Fitchburg, . .	1.15	22.	Cambridge. . .	.57
10.	Pittsfield, . .	1.15	23.	Somerville, . .	.55
11.	Waltham, . .	1.14	24.	Fall River, . .	.53
12.	Medford, . .	1.10	25.	Chelsea, . .	.46
13.	Worcester, . .	1.01	26.	Holyoke, . .	.43

RANK OF SOMERVILLE IN THE STATE, 26 CITIES.

Population	8
Valuation	11
Volumes in its library	17
Amount of its appropriation . . .	11
Cost per volume for circulation . . .	22

Appropriation to its population	18
Appropriation to its valuation	19
Ratio of circulation to size of library	3
Ratio of circulation to population	13
Ratio of size of library to population	23

HISTORICAL.

It is eminently fitting that whatever belongs to the history of our library should be preserved. This is especially true when we turn to the past and seek to recall the efforts then made which give us the fruitage of the present. As those who have given wise direction to our library affairs with patience, labor and fidelity, are called to that bourne from whence no traveller returns, a just and discriminating sense of gratitude should make some record of their lives and character.

We have taken occasion, in previous reports, to refer to the gratuitous and self-sacrificing labors of the original organizer of this library, who for nearly three years gave his services as librarian, Mr. Isaac Pitman. We are extremely fortunate in securing a short sketch of his life which we embody as a part of this report.

Isaac Pitman was born in Providence, R. I., Aug. 20, 1807. He was the son of Isaac and Ann (Updike) Pitman. His mother was a member of the Updike family, so often conspicuous in Rhode Island annals. His father was born on School Street, Boston, and moved from there to Providence in 1775. He had been a member of the famous Boston Tea Party, and was afterwards a captain in the Continental army. After the war, he was for many years an importer and dealer in hardware in Providence.

Young Isaac at one time attended a dame school, to which colored pupils were admitted. He was quite content, until the admission of a new scholar, when the African race was in the majority. He then strongly objected to being a member of what he, perhaps naturally, called a colored school. The remembrance of this greatly amused him in later life. He afterwards

spent some time at a boarding school in Barrington, R. I., and in 1820 he attended Phillips Exeter Academy. His father died when he was eleven years of age. Most of his youth was spent in Providence, Roxbury and Boston. At the latter place, his home was with an elder married sister, Mrs. Wild, who lived there from 1821 to 1825. About this time, or a little later, on account of his health, he passed a year on a coffee plantation in Cuba, with relatives named Jenks, who wished to adopt him; but he declined, giving, among other reasons, his dislike of the system of slavery. About 1840 he made a trip to Europe on a packet ship, which was the ordinary method at this time of crossing the ocean.

For many years he was a member of the firm of Mixer & Pitman, wholesale dealers in starch and oil. Mr. Mixer carried on a store in Lowell, while Mr. Pitman managed the business in Boston. He also took an interest in military affairs, being an officer in a militia company in Roxbury, and later a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery.

In 1844 he married Miss Harriet Minot, daughter of Judge Stephen Minot of Haverhill, Mass., a lady who fully shared his anti-slavery proclivities, and whose mental and social qualities attracted to their home quite a coterie of literary personages, including Whittier, Garrison, Lucy Larcom, Abby M. Diaz and Erastus Brooks.

His brother-in-law, Mr. Charles Minot, died in 1866, and in 1867 Mr. Pitman removed from Providence, where the family had spent several years, to Summer Street, Somerville, where Mrs. Pitman died. After her death, he made his home with his son in Germantown, Pa., where he passed away, somewhat suddenly, December 20, 1891.

Mr. Pitman was a man of ready wit, a good story teller, and a genial companion. In his youthful days he was fond of practical jokes. He used to tell how on one occasion he outwitted a court of justice. Being summoned as a juror, he simply took the juror's oath under protest. The judge, after consideration, saw that it would not do to let such a juror serve, and so excused him. In his business life, his absolute business in-

tegrity was above reproach. In his religious belief, he could accept neither the Unitarian nor Trinitarian view of Christ, although for many years an attendant in Trinitarian churches, either Baptist or Congregational. But when he became acquainted with the doctrines of Swedenborg, he accepted them at once, and ardently advocated them the rest of his life. In his later years, especially, he took great delight in the Bible.

For nearly five years he has slept with his fathers. His remains were interred at Mount Auburn, near the cities of Boston and Somerville, which he loved so well, and where so much of his life was passed.

His surviving children are Mrs. Harriet M. Laughlin of Boston and Mr. S. Minot Pitman of Providence. The oldest son, a youth of much promise, died in 1867, while a student of the Harvard Law School.

CONCLUSION.

We have considered, perhaps at too great length, the work of our Public Library during the year 1896. All that has been done, however open to criticism, has been done with a profound recognition of the responsibility laid upon me and my associates by your honorable board. As I review the past, with all its imperfections and shortcomings, I am constrained to say that there is no accident, all things are by design. Every failure has come, not by any fortuity, but because of imperfect adaptation of means to ends. The future remains. The old Latin command carpe diem, seize your opportunity, is still in force. The work must go on and enlarge. The growth of the city is steady. Intelligence is on the increase. Not only men and women, but boys and girls are waking to a realization of what can be wrought out of the material of life by the use of the agencies of life. No, there is no accident, everything is intended. The avenues of power are on every side, and in the language of Lord Bacon, "Knowledge is power." A spider's web gave Sir Samuel Brown the hint of the suspension bridge. A ship-worm eating its way through a block of wood made known to Brunel the possibility and method of the Thames Tunnel.

The things we call trivial and commonplace may help us to solve some momentous problem in the great mystery of intelligent life, even as a spider's most attenuated thread stretched with care across the open lens helps the astronomer as he points his telescope to the stars. As there is no accident, so there is nothing insignificant. Who knows what a fulcrum our Public Library shall be for some future Archimedes to move the world.

It is again my privilege, as another year completes its course, to return my sincere and grateful thanks to you, gentlemen of the Board of Trustees, for your uniform consideration and generous encouragement. In my own name, and in the name of those associated with me, I beg you to accept this single word of appreciation. I do not venture to claim unfailing success. I do claim honest effort, not at my hands only, but at the hands of those who have been so faithful in all the departments of this institution. They have done their work with patience, fidelity and cheerfulness. I bespeak for them your cordial approval.

And now as another year opens upon us, may its watchword be, not glory, but duty. So shall this library become nobler in character, more expansive in influence, more helpful in building up the city of our habitation in all that makes for virtue, intelligence, thrift, and faith.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN S. HAYES,
Librarian.

December 28, 1896.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
F 18250
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
1898

Public Library

City of Somerville

Massachusetts

1897

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 18259
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1898.

A Quarter of a Century.

TWENTY-FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE,

MASSACHUSETTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1897.



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT.
1898.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, January 26, 1898.

Referred to the Committee on Printing, to be printed in the annual reports. Sent down for concurrence.

GEORGE I. VINCENT, *Clerk.*

IN COMMON COUNCIL, January 26, 1898.

Referred to the Committee on Printing, to be printed in the annual reports, in concurrence.

CHARLES S. ROBERTSON, *Clerk.*



BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

OF THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1897.

TRUSTEES.

CHARLES S. LINCOLN. ELIJAH C. CLARK.
J. HENRY FLITNER. JOHN B. VIALL.
CHRISTOPHER E. RYMES. CHARLES A. WEST.
CHARLES H. BROWN. J. FRANK WELLINGTON.
CHARLES W. SAWYER.

OFFICERS.

CHARLES S. LINCOLN *President.*
JOHN S. HAYES *Secretary.*

COMMITTEES.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS.—Rymes, Viall, Brown, and Clark.
ADMINISTRATION.—Clark, Wellington, and Sawyer.
BOOKS AND CATALOGUES.—Lincoln, *ex officio*, Rymes, Viall, Brown, and West.
FINANCE.—Flitner, Wellington, and Sawyer.

LIBRARIAN.

JOHN S. HAYES.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN.

CLARA L. BIDWELL.

ASSISTANTS.

ANNA L. STONE. MARY J. WARREN.
ESTHER M. MAYHEW. ADELE SMITH.

CATALOGUER.

F. MABEL NORCROSS.

JANITOR.

CHARLES A. SOUTHWICK.

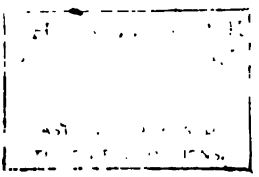
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR 1897.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1896	$10 21
Appropriation	7,500 00
Dog Licenses	2,230 69
Fines	442 70
Catalogues	38 10
Balance to debit in account, 1898	139 01
	$10,360 71

DEBIT.

Books and Periodicals		$3,330 30	
Binding		785 96	
Catalogue Cards		16 64	
Printing		205 55	
Stationery		54 65	
Salaries, Administrative Department	$3,820 43		
Cataloguing Department	580 34		
		4,400 77	
Branch Offices		129 56	
Furniture		57 27	
Repairs		266 30	
Express		240 60	
Electric Lighting		230 67	
Gas		27 50	
Water		26 00	
Fuel		183 65	
Disbursements		75 50	
Postage Stamps, $30.00; Postal Cards, $40.00		70 00	
Bulletins		174 40	
Matting for Floors		82 39	
			$10,360 71





JOHN S. HAYES.
1841–1898.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

To the Honorable City Council: —

The Trustees of the Public Library beg leave to submit their twenty-fifth annual report. The fact that a quarter of a century has passed since the establishment of the Public Library has not been forgotten. Nearly two hundred years before the Christian era Plautus wrote, "Every man reaps on his own farm." Aside from any other application this sentence may have, it is significant in connection with the public educational work which has been done within the borders of our municipality, and it seems especially becoming that some reference should be made to the years that have passed. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees, therefore, held November 29, it was voted:—

"That the next annual report of this Board be prepared with special reference to the twenty-fifth anniversary of this Library. That it contain a review of its past history and the pressing needs of the immediate future, and that it be illustrated with pictures of all those who have served upon the Board of Trustees or as Librarians, and such other cuts as may be hereafter considered advisable."

It will be found that our Librarian's report has conformed to this action of the Board of Trustees, and we are gratified to be able to endorse it fully, and to regard it, although addressed to us, as substantially our report to you. As preliminary to that report, and with the expectation of giving added emphasis to certain suggestions contained in it, we desire to ask the attention of your honorable Board to certain matters connected with the present, and what we hope will be the enlarged usefulness of the Library.

In previous reports your attention has been called to the fact that the Library has come to be recognized as an important factor in the intellectual and moral life of our city. No pains have been spared to secure as great a variety of reading as possible, and to meet the needs of the community by providing wholesome, entertaining, and instructive books. A growing community makes increased demands upon the care of those who are charged, directly or indirectly, with the healthy moral and intellectual growth of our city. There is a duty laid upon those who have been entrusted with special public functions to see to it that all public interests should be wisely conserved, and with no purpose to underestimate the value of other instrumentalities, the importance of our Library can hardly be exaggerated. Certain plain, simple statements will indicate this.

For instance, the circulation of our books during the past year has exceeded that of any previous year. In the year now closing 193,491 volumes were issued for home use, last year 146,-211, showing an increase of over thirty per cent.; and it is worthy of notice that there are no signs of any abatement in the interest that has been awakened. Indeed, everything points so definitely to still larger and more pronounced use of the resources now existing, that it is inevitable that still larger facilities should be had. There should be larger appropriation for the purchase of books, not only that new books may be added to the Library, but that old ones, worn out by constant use, can be replaced. It is to be observed that the expense of rebinding and replacement must be very considerable. Books may be repaired and rebound, and they are, but there comes a time when books become so badly worn and defaced that new ones must be bought. Increase of circulation calls for increase in the Library force, and the fixed expenses of the Library are constantly growing larger.

In just this connection another statement should be made, namely, that by the latest data at hand, our Library stands twenty-third in rank of the libraries of the cities of the State in regard to the number of its volumes as compared with the population, and that, too, when we are the eighth city in population; and we may add, with a certain degree of pride, the third city in the Com-

monwealth in the total number of books circulated. Third city in circulation, eighth city in size, and twenty-third library facilities!

That is to say, there can be no question that in the near future a larger building will be required to contain the larger number of books which the public demands. Nor must it be understood that a larger building is needed merely to accommodate books. It cannot be denied that the people, young and old, deserve better accommodations. This must be held to be a commendable state of affairs. The intelligent activity of the people is noticeably on the increase, and the younger generation, under the impulse of our admirable public schools, and the careful attention our public press has given to our Library interests, may justly ask for better facilities for the circulation of books and for the immediate consultation of them.

Our delivery room is altogether too small, and is often crowded so that those who resort to it are greatly inconvenienced. Those who visit the Library during the busy hours of the day deserve great credit for the patience they display and the inevitable annoyance to which they are subjected. There are only about three hundred square feet in our present delivery room, and frequently from fifty to seventy-five people are crowded into it, unable to sit down, and necessarily obliged to stand in much weariness. To consult the card catalogue, which is located in this room, is almost impossible. Similar criticism is justified as regards our reading room and reference room. The first can comfortably accommodate only twenty-five persons at a time, and the latter is practically of the same size. Now, when you consider that our city is of nearly 60,000 inhabitants, and of growing intellectual tastes, it cannot be wondered at that many persons turn away in despair for lack of room.

All such matters have received the careful consideration of the Board of Trustees, and a special committee, with Hon. C. E. Rymes as chairman, has presented to the Board a study of a plan for the enlargement of the present building. This plan is imposing and attractive in its style of architecture, and while providing for present actual needs looks to those for years to come. A more

specific statement of this will be made when we shall ask for a special appropriation for an addition to this building. It may be well to add that with the exception of Fall River, Lynn, and New Bedford, all the principal cities in the Commonwealth have fine and commodious library buildings. Lynn and Fall River are both building expensive libraries, and New Bedford has the question under consideration.

The Trustees deem it appropriate to announce in this place the donation to the city of Mrs. Harriet Minot Laughlin, daughter of the late Isaac Pitman, our first Librarian, of one thousand dollars, the income of which is to be expended in English poetry. This gift is made not only to commemorate his memory, but to connect his name in a practical way with the Library that was always dear to his heart, and for which he labored so faithfully as a deed of love. This is our first donation in money that has been given for a like purpose. While many other cities and towns have received munificent gifts from their fellow-citizens, and magnificent buildings have been the result of their generosity, and for the public good, no one has yet in our humble city bestowed on us his benefactions in this direction. It is true that Somerville is yet young, and town or local pride has not yet had time to crystallize, but let us not despair. Fortunes are of slow growth, and, perhaps, are rare in our city. It is to be hoped, however, the generous and noble example set by Mrs. Laughlin, not a resident, will be followed by many of our public-spirited citizens.

It must not be forgotten that in ancient times men of large resources and public spirit not only erected magnificent temples and palaces and enhanced their value by exquisite ornamentations, but set up in public squares statues of heroes and demigods for the admiration of the populace. Into such statues men put their best thought and skill, and they were meant to be, and in a sense they were, the visible literature and religion of the people. Then libraries were reserved for the few, and were closed to the many. In these days the doors of the public library swing on easy hinges, and without disparagement to any artistic creation; indeed, its large influence to-day, as in the yesterday long since forgotten, is recognized, yet it may, nevertheless, be emphasized in the lan-

guage of Milton, that "a good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life." Therefore, it is without question to be commended that those who have the means should display their public spirit by endowing libraries and schools, where master spirits bound in silence sit in council to be consulted on the momentous questions which affect personal character, intellectual and moral, and consequently the common weal. The seeds of thought sown by books in fruitful minds make possible the harvestry of virtue and wisdom. And so again it may be repeated for the encouragement of those who contemplate any public benefaction, by any gift to our Library, that

"Each man reaps on his own farm."

After a careful consideration of the pressing demands of our rapidly-increasing constituency, we feel that the smallest amount of money with which we can manage the Library and purchase the necessary number of books the coming year to be nine thousand dollars and the dog tax, and we, therefore, confidently ask your honorable body to grant that sum, since nothing less will permit us to give our fellow-citizens the service to which they are entitled, or to supply the public with books which shall be at their command.

It is quite superfluous to add, in closing, yet we do so most readily, that the labors of our Librarian have been incessant and successful, and he has been ably seconded by those associated with him in the conduct of the Library. Their efforts merit the hearty commendation of the public, whom they so faithfully serve.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) CHARLES S. LINCOLN,

President.

December 27, 1897.

Names of those who have served on the Board of Trustees since the Library was established in 1872, and whose portraits appear in this report: —

	Elected.	Retired.
John P. Marshall, President, 1872–75	1872	1875
Austin Belknap	1872	1875
*Charles H. Guild, President, 1875–76	1872	1876
Quincy A. Vinal	1872	1877
Edward C. Booth	1872	1876
Michael J. Canavan	1872	1874
*George O. Brastow	1872	1873
William H. Furber	1872	1876
Selwyn Z. Bowman	1872	1873
*Charles G. Pope	1873	1876
" "	1885	1889
H. H. Barber, President, 1881–85	1874	1885
S. A. Carlton	1873	1876
*Charles Lowe	1874	1874
William Veazie	1875	1885
William G. Tousey, President, 1876–81	1875	1884
T. J. Buffum	1876	1885
F. H. Raymond	1876	1879
A. M. Robinson	1876	1882
R. C. Downer	1876	1880
E. S. Conant	1876	1884
William H. Brine	1877	1889
C. S. Lincoln, President, 1885	1878	
J. Henry Flitner	1880	
C. E. Rymes	1882	
William E. Weld	1884	1893
Mark F. Burns	1884	1885
George A. Bruce	1884	1892
Sanford Hanscom, M. D.	1885	1890
James E. Whitaker	1885	1894
Elijah C. Clark	1889	
Charles H. Brown	1889	
John B. Viall	1890	
Charles A. West	1892	
J. Frank Wellington	1893	
Charles W. Sawyer	1895	
LIBRARIANS.		
*Isaac Pitman	1872	1875
Miss H. A. Adams	1875	1893
John S. Hayes	1893	

*Deceased.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:—

A duty comes to me at the close of the present year, but a privilege is added to the duty. It is the privilege to value and to give honor, however inadequately, to the past, to recognize and to value the present, and to value and to interpret the future. The story of the past is not epitaph, but inspiration. On the summit of twenty-five years we do not build a cairn merely, and say, here a work was done, nor do we add to that, those who piled the stones had strength and sincerity, but we make the height which a quarter of a century has climbed unto the level roadway for a work to be done now, and for an achievement which will lift us higher. Our present must be made level with the best attainments the years have made, only, that from it, as from an altar, may flash forth a light which may unweave the shrouded mystery of the future, and write in letters whose lustre charms and encourages, still is this truth set before us,—there is a beyond! I think one American poet, the poet of actual insight, gives us a true revelation of human life, based on the eternal order of things:—

"This day before dawn I ascended the hill and looked at the crowded heaven,
And I said to my Spirit, when we become the enfolders of those orbs and the pleasure and knowledge of everything in them, shall we be filled and satisfied then?
And my Spirit said, No, we but *level that lift, to pass and continue beyond.*"

We shall value and honor the quarter of a century our Library has won when we "level that lift, to pass and continue beyond."

STATISTICS.

Population of city (estimated)		56,000
Valuation of city		$49,707,800 00
Appropriation for Library . .	$7,500 00	
Dog licenses . . .	2,230 69	
		9,730 69

CIRCULATION.

Number of days the Library was open		305
Number of volumes delivered for home use		193,491
Through agency at West Somerville	17,147	
" " " East Somerville	8,552	
" " on Somerville avenue	860	
" grammar school boxes	11,732	
" English High School (estimated)	1,000	
" loan to schools	8,254	
Largest number at schools at one time	1,389	
Average monthly use		16,124
" daily use		634
Largest monthly use, December		20,490
" daily use, December 4		1,356
Smallest monthly use, August		10,745
" daily use, September 20		375
Number of books lost, worn out, and withdrawn		265
" " " bound		2,346
" " periodicals, etc., bound		461
" " names registered during year		2,218
" " " " since July 1, 1895		8,026

ACCESSIONS.

Number of volumes in the Library December 31, 1896		33,826
Number of volumes in the Library December 31, 1897		33,708
Increase of volumes		4,147
By purchase	3,733	
" donations	181	
" binding periodicals, etc.	205	
" exchange from duplicate room	28	
Books withdrawn		265

DELIVERY AT THE SCHOOLS.

		Deliveries.	Books.	Average.
1.	Knapp	32	1,824	57
2.	Edgerly	32	1,598	50
3.	Hodgkins	31	1,402	45
4.	Glines	31	1,277	41
5.	Bell	11	434	39.4
6.	Highland	31	1,213	39
7.	Morse	31	1,141	36.7
8.	Pope	32	1,164	36.3
9.	Forster	31	902	29
10.	Prescott	32	770	24
		274	11,732	40

CIRCULATION THROUGH THE "SPECIAL LIBRARIES."

1.	Knapp	1,153
2.	Hodgkins	976
3.	Edgerly	966
4.	Cummings	802
5.	Bell	795
6.	Glines	760
7.	Forster	671
8.	Bingham	540
9.	Highland	433
10.	Davis	400
11.	Pope	350
12.	Prescott	200
13.	Morse	174
14.	Lincoln	34
		8,254

Largest number of volumes loaned to schools at one time 1,389.

CIRCULATION.

The Library has been open to the public 305 days during the past year. The number of volumes given out for home use has been 193,491; of these 17,147 were distributed through the West Somerville agency, 8,552 through the East Somerville agency, 860 through the agency on Somerville avenue, 11,732 through the boxes sent to the several large grammar school buildings, and 1,000 to the English High School.

The largest number of books distributed in any one day was on December 4, when 1,356 were given out, and the smallest daily charge was made September 20, when 273 were delivered.

During the month of August 10,745 volumes were issued, which was the lightest month in the year, and December had the largest circulation in any one month since the Library was opened, being 20,490 volumes. The average monthly circulation was 16,124, and the average daily circulation 634 volumes.

It will be noticed that the circulation of books for home reading is unprecedented in the history of the Library, being eighty per cent. larger than any preceding year, except that of 1896, and more than thirty per cent. larger than last year, when the number of books delivered reached 146,211. There was an error in the number as printed in our last report. A gain in circulation of 47,281 volumes in one year is as gratifying as it was unexpected.

This gain may not be duplicated the coming year; indeed, you may not be able to hold the circulation where it is now, but if you do not, it will be because the resources at your command will not permit you to furnish the requisite number of new books. The increase of your circulation within certain limits depends largely upon your ability to promptly meet the reasonable demands of a large reading public.

YEARLY CIRCULATION.

While it is true that the benefits derived from the use of the Library cannot be reckoned in coin, expressed in tables, or described by the pen, it may be interesting, however, to see to what extent the public make use of the books in the Library, and the number of books circulated from year to year.

Tables of figures are often misleading, and the following one will be, unless it is borne in mind that during the past twenty-five years of the Library the figures representing the circulation have not always had the same meaning. During many years it was the rule to add the number of books taken from the shelves for consultation in the Library to the circulation, and also to count a renewed book the same as a book taken out, although it may not have left the shelf but once.

For the past four years the word "circulation" means the number of volumes taken out for home use. It should also be borne in mind that the Library was open only four months during the year 1873, and was closed nearly three months during the year 1885, and more than four months during the year 1895.

1873	18,047
1874	35,202
1875	39,025
1876	46,855
1877	57,682
1878	61,076
1879	63,215
1880	67,894
1881	67,649
1882	67,673
1883	70,531
1884	72,591
1885	65,450
1886	77,610
1887	79,062
1888	80,697
1889	88,381
1890	95,127
1891	95,248
1892	93,451
1893	93,213
1894	106,341
1895	68,231
1896	146,211
1897	193,491
	1,949,953

YEARLY APPROPRIATIONS AND COLLECTIONS.

	Appropriations.	Dog Licenses.	Catalogues.	Fines.	Gifts.	Miscellaneous.
Before 1872	$2,237 76		. . .			. . .
1872	1,139 33		. . .			. . .
1873	4,000 00		. . .	$146 80	$100 00	. . .
1874	1,162 29		. . .	237 59	2 80	$.75
1875	1,000 00	$1,269 96	. . .	245 14		. . .
1876		1,260 29	. . .	216 46		. . .
1877	1,500 00	1,362 30	. . .	206 18		. . .
1878	1,200 00	1,080 85	. . .	224 07		. . .
1879	1,200 00	936 10	. . .	260 20		. . .
1880	1,500 00	934 23	$46 74	231 92		. . .
1881	1,200 00	927 13	29 72	205 10		. . .
1882	1,500 00	1,018 37	28 80	236 71		. . .
1883	1,500 00	1,083 63	31 30	241 56		. . .
1884	1,500 00	1,307 75	34 24	214 86		. . .
1885	2,500 00	1,402 04	37 17	150 29		. . .
1886	2,500 00	1,728 54	36 60	274 69		410 93
1887	3,500 00	1,835 46	21 75	271 74		5 00
1888	3,000 00	2,388 30	46 15	283 57		. . .
1889	3,000 00	2,382 90	44 05	293 76		15 50
1890	3,000 00	2,631 12	42 30	327 91		1 50
1891	3,000 00	2,596 68	24 12	358 06		4 34
1892	4,000 00	1,003 97	33 90	420 13		4 00
1893	5,500 00	3,655 64	24 00	335 06		. . .
1894	6,500 00	2,710 90	12 40	320 82		. . .
1895	6,500 00	2,693 51	61 75	148 02		14 00
1896	8,000 00	2,506 26	71 60	318 72		. . .
1897	7,500 00	2,230 69	. . .		1,000 00	. . .
Total .	$80,139 38	$40,946 62	$626 59	$6,169 36	$1,102 80	$456 02

The sums of money received for fines and from the sales of catalogues were not separated until the year 1880. Until that year, therefore, the amount collected by the Librarian appears as a gross sum in the column of fines.

Of the $410.93 found in the miscellaneous column for 1896, $409.73 was "transferred from interest account," and might properly be added to the appropriation column.

It will be seen that the city has appropriated $80,139.38 and the dog licenses, amounting to $40,946.62, and has transferred to the Library account $409.73, making a total of $121,495.73.

It remains only to be said that every effort has been made and will be made to make our Public Library helpful to the best interests of the city. Ruskin says, "Valuable books should, in a civilized country, be within the reach of every one." We cannot boast that all valuable books are in our Public Library, but after a careful examination, no one will dispute that from the first a most discriminating care has been exercised in the selection of books, and that for practical usefulness up to the present time, considering the facilities and resources at command, our Public Library, if not unsurpassed, stands among those most deserving public commendation.

DELIVERY AGENCIES.

I regret to say that only one additional delivery agency has been opened during the present year.

After carefully looking over that part of our city located south of the Fitchburg railroad, no suitable place for an agency could be found, but it is hoped that at no distant day this locality will not be deprived of the benefits of the Library which a Library Station would supply.

September 11 an agency was opened at the store of Mrs. Susan A. Riker, 518 Somerville avenue, which will be a great convenience to that section of the city.

It is to be hoped that the funds at our disposal will permit us to open one or two more during the coming year.

BOOKS AT THE ENGINE HOUSES.

We have placed copies of our Finding List of books in the Library in each of the several fire stations in the city, and for the past few months we have been sending baskets of books to several of the companies.

The chief of the Fire Department and the men under his command speak in commendable terms of your action in their behalf, and fully appreciate its benefits. I am satisfied that this is a step in the right direction.

NEW BOOKS.

We have added to the Library during the year 4,147 volumes, and 265 volumes have been discarded or lost, making a net increase of 3,882 volumes. Of these volumes 3,733 were received from purchase, 181 were gifts to the Library, 28 were received in exchange for duplicates, 107 by binding serials, 98 by binding pamphlets and paper covered volumes given to the Library.

The number of volumes in the Library at the present time, exclusive of public documents, duplicates, and pamphlets in the duplicate room, is 37,780 volumes.

It should be borne in mind that notwithstanding we purchased 3,733 volumes, more than 2,000 of them were duplicates of books already in the Library; therefore, the amount of new material was deplorably small. This dearth of new books makes the demand for a larger annual appropriation for the Library most urgent. The demand upon the Library is so great that it often occurs that all of our books bearing on certain subjects are exhausted before the demand is half supplied. The inability of a Library to be able to do its best work for want of the right material is a condition that cannot be satisfactorily met by Librarian or Trustees. However, the importance of purchasing duplicates of books of classic or standard worth is without dispute. A little reflection will indicate the fact that the need of duplicates is well-nigh imperative. Of course it must be recognized that no Library that seeks to perpetuate its influence will endeavor to purchase, to any considerable extent, certainly not to any exhaustive extent, the current literature of the day. Not only is this forbidden by lack of funds, but because it would be unwise. Books for which there may be an immediate but transient demand may become mere lumber on the shelves within a year. When books of sterling merit and of popular quality are purchased it is quite necessary that more than one copy should be procured. The large number of duplicates purchased during the past year has not supplied the needs of the public. We call attention to this fact as an item by no means inconsiderable in the furnishing of a working library. The expense incurred must be large, yet it cannot be dispensed with. A popular work will have many readers, and, however re-

stricted the time may be that it can be retained when taken out, more than one or even two copies are not only desirable, but a necessity; for a public library must meet the legitimate demands of the public.

YEARLY ACCESSIONS.

It may be of interest to note the additions of books to the Library each year since it was started, as found recorded in the Accession catalogue. These figures denote the total accessions, and include the volumes worn out, lost, or withdrawn.

The Library was open to the public May 1, 1873, with 2,384 volumes on its shelves.

	Added Each Year.	Accession No. Dec. 31 of Each Year.
Volumes May 1, 1873	2,384	
Added during 1873	1,251	3,635
" 1874	1,027	4,662
" 1875	573	5,235
" 1876	602	5,837
" 1877	853	6,690
" 1878	749	7,439
" 1879	515	7,954
" 1880	660	8,614
" 1881	668	9,282
" 1882	770	10,052
" 1883	913	10,965
" 1884	859	11,824
" 1885	964	12,788
" 1886	1,150	13,938
" 1887	1,165	15,103
" 1888	1,846	16,949
" 1889	1,346	18,295
" 1890	1,817	20,112
" 1891	1,432	21,544
" 1892	1,648	23,192
" 1893	1,677	24,869
" 1894	2,860	27,729
" 1895	4,010	31,739
" 1896	5,016	36,755
" 1897	4,147	40,902
Total number Dec. 31, 1897	40,902 volumes.	

The number of books worn out, discarded, and lost since the Library was started appears to be 3,194 volumes, making the number of volumes at the present time 37,708.

It will be noticed that during the first five years there were added an average of 861 volumes each year; during the next five years an average of 672 volumes each year; during the third period of five years an average of 1,010 volumes each year; during the fourth period an average of 1,618 volumes each year; and during the last period of five years an average of 3,542 volumes each year.

DISPLAY OF NEW BOOKS.

All new books are displayed in a bookcase in the delivery room, where the public can see and examine them, and select the one they may desire. We only regret that circumstances forbid greater privileges in the direction of permitting patrons freer access to the rich resources of the Library, and we trust, at no distant day, we may be able to furnish better facilities to readers and students to examine books before they select them.

ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF BOOKS.

The usual examination of all the books in the Library and the verification of the shelf list was taken this year during May and June, these being the months of smallest circulation while the whole Library force are at work. Of course the smallest circulation is during July and August, but as one or more of the regular staff are absent on their vacation at this time, it is necessary to "take our account of stock" earlier in the year.

We are happy to report that all the books for which the shelf list called were found, and the six volumes reported lost in 1896 were discovered. It would thus appear that no book has been lost or stolen from the Library since its reorganization in 1895. Many books were found out of their proper places on the shelves, and a book misplaced is a book lost, so far as its value to the public is concerned.

This examination is no easy matter, while the Library is open to the public and the contents of the shelves constantly changing, but it seems necessary, at least once a year, to ascertain if there be any thefts or leaks in the system that permit books to disappear without being discovered.

FRENCH AND GERMAN BOOKS.

In the year 1894 we started an alcove of books printed in the French language, and it was so largely used that it has been increased from time to time, until the Library now contains 712 volumes.

This year we have added an alcove devoted exclusively to books printed in the German language, not only for the benefit of the German people in our city, but for that class of Americans, which is constantly increasing, who have studied the language, read it easily, and are desirous of obtaining books of German literature.

This alcove contains at the present time 349 volumes, representing the several classes of German literature, and we can confidently recommend these books, as they represent the best works published in that language.

We are indebted to one of the former Trustees of this Library, Dr. E. C. Booth, for the selection of many of the books, and he called to his assistance Professor Emerton, of Harvard University, who furnished a list of which it can be said, that it contains, substantially, the "best one hundred German books." This list was extended and supplemented by a list prepared with much care by Professor Cutting, chief of the German department in Chicago University, and it includes "some of the very best of the modern criticisms upon German literature."

The calls for these books indicate that they were needed and justify your action in procuring them, and they are fully appreciated by readers and students of the modern languages.

REGISTRATION.

It would be interesting to know how many Library cards are in active use at the present time. I know of no way to ascertain this fact, but during the month of November last, books were delivered on 3,036 different cards, and there must be nearly as many persons, holders of cards, that did not use them during that month.

The present registration commenced July 1, 1895, and all cards in use at that time were cancelled, and only the cards issued under the new registration are recognized. December 31, 1895, the number registered was 2,786; registered during the year 1896, 3,022; registered during the year 1897, 2,218. Total registration, 8,026.

REBINDING.

The record of rebinding for the year shows a marked increase in the number of books sent to the bindery to be rebound. This is to be expected as the circulation increases and the books grow old, but an increase of thirty-three and one-third per cent. over the previous year calls for a much larger appropriation in this, as in all the departments of the Library. The number of books discarded because worn out was more than fifty per cent. greater than last year. It is desirable that all books, the titles of which appear in our printed list, should be in the Library, and often it is no easy matter, if not impossible, to replace a book out of print.

The bindery box forcibly reminds one of the lack of care of many thoughtless users of borrowed books, and even suggests that it might be a good idea to inaugurate the plan of enclosing all books in paper wrappers as they left the Library. To the credit of many lovers of books, it can be said, that many patrons of this Library invariably transport the books they have withdrawn wrapped in paper.

The number of books sent to the bindery the past year has been 2,346. Of this number 107 were magazines and periodicals,

354 paper covered books and pamphlets, and 1,885 volumes were from the circulating department.

MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Twelve numbers of the Bulletin have been published during the year, and its usefulness warrants its continuance. It has been materially aided in increasing the circulation of your books, and has had a marked tendency to improve the character of the books read, by calling the attention of patrons to many new works published in the several classes of literature. We have not only printed the list of all new books added to the Library, but during the year we have published a complete list of all the juvenile books in the Library, arranged by classes, and the December number contains all the works of fiction added to the Library during the year, arranged under authors, thus bringing all the fiction now in the Library into only three alphabets, namely, Fiction Finding List, Special Fiction number, December, 1896, and the December Bulletin.

The Bulletin has also contained special reading lists on the following topics:—

Best Books of 1896.	Emerson, R. W.
Bibliography.	England in the Victorian Age.
Browning, Elizabeth B.	Fairy Tales, Mythology, and Folklore.
Browning, Robert.	German Books in the Library.
Cuba.	Grant, Ulysses S.
Electricity.	Irving, Washington.

Another year we ought to publish a supplement to our Finding List, as the books in the Library have nearly doubled in number since it was printed. Should a person wish to ascertain if a particular book is in the Library at the present time he would have to consult twenty-three lists, the Finding List and twenty-two Bulletins, before he would be certain that the desired book is not in the Library.

If you do not feel that the funds at your disposal will permit this to be done, then we should at least print a supplement containing the works of fiction, biography, and history and travels.

ABUSE OF PRIVILEGES.

It would seem at first thought that this must be a matter deserving very brief and cursory consideration. A sense of respect for an ownership held by the individual in common with the public might tend, it might be thought, to a careful conservation of public property. Public trust might well be supposed to operate as a public duty, in which every one involved would cheerfully assume his own particular share. But in many instances this is fallacious. The beneficiaries of the Library return evil for good in the use of the Library.

Books are mutilated, if it cannot be said maliciously, nevertheless, in a spirit of extreme selfishness that should not be suffered to pass without rebuke.

In certain instances this wrongdoing has been traced to the guilty party, and it has been proven that passages of books have been excerpted, and valuable maps and illustrations stolen.

The injury to the book is to a large extent irreparable. The reading public is defrauded of its rights, and the individual, perhaps with no malicious purpose, is hurt in his own self-respect.

Up to the present time such vandalism has not been made public, and those to whom it has been laid have simply made good, as far as possible, the injury done. Books have been replaced and the offense condoned. But the matter is of sufficient importance to suggest the question whether such and kindred abuse of privileges should be passed over in this manner,—all the more as any easy treatment might not restrain from the injury, or the theft even, of books so rare and valuable that they could not be replaced.

It may be well to call attention to the law which touches this matter, and make some example of those who may be guilty of in-

gratitude and infraction of legal rights in accepting and abusing the privileges extended to them by our Public Library.

DONATIONS.

The Library has received as donations during the year 263 volumes, 192 pamphlets, and 883 periodicals; also a fine crayon of the late Edward Everett Edgerly, who was deeply interested in the educational welfare of this city, and was largely instrumental in having this Library started.

Charles E. Davis presented a complete file of the Boston Daily Traveler, during the period of the Rebellion, from November 30, 1860, to November 30, 1865. These papers are invaluable, and make fifteen volumes that cannot be duplicated.

Charles S. Lincoln, Esq., gave Depew's "One Hundred Years of American Commerce," in two large quarto volumes, bound in full seal.

Elbridge S. Brooks presented a complete set of his works, of twenty-six volumes, which will be placed in the Somerville alcove.

Walter A. Davis, Fitchburg, gave the early records of the Town of Lunenburg, two volumes.

Charles W. Sawyer gave Englehardt's "Boston," 1897, bound in full seal.

Rev. Thomas E. Leyden presented two portfolios of Facsimiles of Royal, Historical, Literary, and other Autographs in Department of Manuscripts, British Museum, 1896.

LIST OF DONATIONS, 1897.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Allen, E. E., Philadelphia	1		
A. L. A.		1	
Amherst College	1		
Barber, Rev. R. R.		3	
Bath, England	1		
Berle, Rev. A. A.		1	30
Blake, Francis E.		1	
Book Reviews			12
Boston Book Co.			8
Boston School Committee	1		
Buffalo, City of	1		
Bureau of American Republics	2		
Butte, Montana, High School Leader			1
Chandler, L. B.	1		
Christian Leader			52
Christian Register			52
Christian Science Journal			12
Club of Odd Volumes	1		
Cambridge Free Public Library	1	6	
Committee of International Arbitration	1		
Davis, Charles E., Files Traveler	15		
Davis, Walter A., Fitchburg	2		
Dimond, H. C.	1		
Dolbear, A. E.		1	
Dutton, S. T.	1		
Elliot, Mary E.	2		
Elliot, Sterling	1		
Fitzgeral, Desmond	1		
Flood, T. W.	1		
Food, Home, and Garden			2
General Theological Library		1	
Getchell, M. S.	2		
Gibbs, E. D.	1	2	
Glines, A. W.	1		
Grand Council Royal Arcanum		19	
Graves, Rev. H. C.	1		
Green, S. A.		1	
Harvard College	2		
Hatch Experiment Station	1	23	
Hawaiian Government	1		
Hayes, J. S.	11	8	
Heptorean Club	1	3	
Hoar, Hon. H. F.	1		
Home Market Bulletin			12
Houghton, Mifflin & Co.		1	
Humphrey, G. P.	1		
Hunt, Miss A. C.			9
Iles, George		1	
Carried forward	58	72	185

LIST OF DONATIONS, 1897. — *Continued.*

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Brought forward	58	72	185
Illinois State Historical Society		1	
Iowa Masonic Library, Cedar Rapids		1	
Irish National Federation of Americans	1		
Journal of Orthoepy and Orthography			12
King, Henry P.		1	
Ladies' Commission S. S. Books	1		
Lake Placid, N. Y.		1	
Land of Sunshine, Los Angeles, Cal.			12
Leyden, Rev. Thomas E.	2		
Lincoln, C. S.	2		
Litchfield, J. A.	2		
Literary News			12
McCall, S. M.	2		
McCormick, C. H.	2		
Massachusetts Free Public Library Commission		1	
Massachusetts Historical Society	3		
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1		
Massachusetts, State of	21	1	
Maynard, W. A.	21		
Mead, E. D.	1		
Milne, J. M.	1		
National Municipal League		1	
New Hampshire College of Agriculture		1	
New York State Library	4		
New England Anti-Vivisection Society			12
Our Outlook			36
Parsons, J. R., Chicago	1		
Pennsylvania Institute for the Blind	6		
Perkins, Hon. G. W.	50		
Perkins Institute for the Blind	1		
Pratt, Ida F.			1
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn		1	
Public Libraries: —			
Allegheny, Pa.		1	
Boston		1	12
Brookline		1	1
Brooklyn, N. Y.		1	6
Burlington, Vt.		2	
Cambridge	5	1	10
Chelsea		1	
Clinton		1	
Concord, N. H.		1	1
Danvers		1	
Detroit, Mich.		1	
Dover, N. H.	1	1	1
Enoch Pratt, Baltimore, Md.		2	
Carried forward	186	96	301

LIST OF DONATIONS, 1897. — *Continued.*

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Brought forward	186	96	301
Public Libraries (*Continued*): —			
Fisk Library, New Orleans, La.	1		
Fitchburg		1	6
Free Library of Philadelphia, Pa.		1	
Hartford, Conn.		1	12
Hoar Library, Littleton, N. H.	1	1	
Jersey City, N. J.		1	12
Lancaster		1	
Lawrence		1	6
Leeds, Eng		1	
Leominster		1	
Lowell		2	6
Lynn		1	12
Malden		1	
Manchester, N. H.		1	
Melrose		1	
Milwaukee, Wis.	1		1
Minneapolis, Minn.	1	2	1
New Bedford		1	11
New Haven, Conn.		1	12
New London, Conn.			12
New York Free Circulating Library			3
New York, N. Y.		1	12
Newark, N. J.			4
Newton		1	
North Adams		1	
Northampton		1	
Norwich, Conn.		1	12
Patterson, N. J.		1	7
Peabody		1	
Pittsfield		1	
Plymouth, Eng.		1	
Portland, Me.		1	
Portsmouth, Eng.		1	
Poughkeepsie		1	
Providence		2	12
Providence Athenæum Library		1	10
St. Joseph, Nev.		1	
St. Louis, Mo.		1	
St. Louis Mercantile Library		1	
Salem	2	1	10
San Francisco, Cal.	1		12
Scranton, N. J.		1	2
Seattle, Wash.		1	
Springfield		7	12
Syracuse, N. Y.		1	
Taunton		1	
Carried forward	193	145	488

LIST OF DONATIONS, 1897. — *Concluded.*

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Brought forward	193	145	488
Public Libraries (*Concluded*): —			
Waltham		1	11
Waterbury, Conn.		2	
Wilkesbarre, Pa.			2
Winchester	1		
Winthrop		1	
Woburn		1	
Worcester		1	
Quinn, J. C.	2		
Radiator, Somerville High School			19
Rapid Transit Commissioners	2		
Richer & Co., G. H.		1	
Rymes, C. E.	1		
Sawyer, C. W.	2		
Scientific American	1		
Secretary of State, N. H.	1		
Smith, Miss M. E.	1		
Somerville Journal			104
Southworth, J. A.	2	2	
Stokes, A. P.	1		
Thompson, B. F.	1		
Trustees of Public Reservations		1	
Tufts College	1		
Tuftonian, Tufts College			18
Tufts Weekly, Tufts College			36
United Societies, Manifesto			12
United States	36	16	78
University of Pennsylvania	1		
Vincent, George I.	1		
Werner Co.		1	
West, C. A.			6
West & Jenny			12
Whitaker, George E.			54
Whitcomb, C. T. C.		6	
Whitcomb, I. A.	1	10	
Whittier, J. H.	2		
Willis, Charles W.	4		
Winship, George P.		3	
Winthrop, R. C., Jr.	1		
Wisconsin Public Library Commission	1	1	
Woman's Journal			52
Yeaton, Miss M.	17		
Total	263	192	883

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY.

It cannot be amiss to state that the magnificent and timely gift of Mrs. Harriet Minot Laughlin will set apart one class of books to bear her name, and the memory of our first librarian, Mr. Isaac Pitman, will be still farther preserved and perpetuated by being given to a specific department. It is proposed that in each book bought with the income of this fund some such label as the following shall be placed:—

THE ISAAC PITMAN

Department of Poetry.

ENDOWED BY

HARRIET MINOT LAUGHLIN.

Is not this an eminently worthy method of preserving the names of those who, for themselves or for others, become patrons and donors of the Library? Can you think of a better? How little it takes to perpetuate a memory if it be only connected with a good deed, and what better deed can there be than that which seeks to uplift a virtuous and intellectual character? One that belongs not to any individual, merely, but to the city itself.

There are public-spirited men and noble-hearted women who are able to make bequests to this institution. They are qualified to judge of what our Library has accomplished. They know what it is doing, and they cannot be blind to the large prospect before us. The same considerations which press upon all our citizens should influence them. Large means measure larger duties. The more we have received, the more will be required. In making this appeal to those who have large means, we do not underestimate that the public at large, those of moderate means, contribute.

A department of the Library, or an alcove, may rightly bear the name of some benefactor. The whole Library monuments the purpose and life of all. The public make the public library.

Holding this fact in view, I venture to emphasize this statement, that the time of small things has passed. Somerville is a growing city, a city filled with noble homes. It is surrounded with colleges and universities. It was once a place threaded with Indian trails and bridle paths. Its noble hills were covered with patriots' camps; here liberty and freedom first flung its ensign to the breeze. It was then a provincial town of scant number, yet of noble yeoman. It was then a city struggling to make itself worthy of a charter. To-day it is an important municipality. It counts among its citizens those who are of approved thrift and power, who hold positions of eminence and influence. It is a city on a hill, on seven hills, and on each one burns a beacon light that sheds forth rays of temperance, morality, industry, intelligence, and abounding uplifting faith. We are about to pass from the nineteenth to the twentieth century. We must not be content to follow far behind towns and cities that are less favorably situated. Why not lead, or strive for the head?

To be sure, economy is a duty, but parsimony is no virtue. Generous provision should be made for a generous-hearted people. The prosperity of the Public Library should be cherished in every house. If it shall be, the Public Library will help to make every home more desirable and efficient for the education of private worth and the public weal.

SCHOOLS AND THE LIBRARY.

It will be found that the Superintendent of Schools in his well-considered report concerning our several institutions of learning has incorporated a very appreciative reference to the helpfulness of the Public Library.

It is a satisfaction to know that one who is equipped for his work and faithful in it welcomes and acknowledges what the Public Library has attempted to do. For it is undoubtedly a fact that the public schools and the Public Library should be stanch

allies, bearing back the forces of ignorance, and carrying forward the standard of a well-instructed intelligence.

One remark in the section of the report referred to is, that the plan of extending the benefits of the Library to the teachers and pupils in the higher grades of schools "has been continued and extended with most beneficial results."

It is germain to the purpose of this report to expand this statement so that a little more detail may emphasize the fact, and the city understand that there is full warrant for what the Superintendent of Schools says, and that indeed it gives only a hint of the interest which the Library has taken in furnishing educational facilities to enlarge the usefulness of our efficient school system.

Let it then be stated succinctly, that all pupils in the eighth and ninth grades in our grammar schools have Library cards, which they are encouraged to use not only for school helps, but for home instruction and entertainment,—the conviction being held that a good book, not necessarily concerning any prescribed course of study, but giving apt and interesting facts in history, biography, travel, science, and fiction, will be a safeguard in the discipline of the present, and helpful for the good character of the future. Our youth in the formative period of their life cannot be too carefully guarded without being subject to unnecessary and, perhaps, irritating control.

Aside from the books furnished the boys and girls of the grades mentioned, our school teachers have special cards permitting them to take out six books at a time. Now let it be considered that our teachers are subjected to a continual drain of physical and mental vitality. Body and mind must be given to any thorough and successful work. The nervous strain of teachers cannot be denied. The exhaustion of intellectual sympathy is often a painful experience. Now the Library purposes to furnish just the pabulum which shall restore such exhaustion, and feed body and mind to the recuperation of their entire strength. Out of the resources of the Library a thoughtful teacher can secure help which may not be available in any other way. An hour's quiet study or forgetful reading in the quiet of the evening will rest the body and mind, and suggest trains of thought which will

revive an enthusiastic interest in a work second to none in immediate importance to those under their charge.

Nor is this all. Specially selected books are sent to the schools as special helps in the studies pursued in the schools, such as history, geography, etc., and these books are sent, under advice of the teachers, for those pupils too young to have Library cards.

It will be seen, therefore, that in conformity with the spirit which should exist, and to so considerable an extent does exist, in our public schools, this Library endeavors to be an immediate, personal, and continuous help and incitement to the teachers of our youth and of our youth themselves throughout the city. This is an exceedingly important work. It may be said to anticipate what in after years among adults make philanthropies and reforms necessary. The habit of intelligence is the prophecy of social enlightenment and a perpetual civilization.

The home, the school, the Public Library should be allies each of the others to give force of life and nobility of character to our children and youth.

Let it not be imagined that we emphasize unduly the importance of our youth. A few isolated facts are suggested in this connection.

Demosthenes at eighteen pleaded his own cause in court and won it against his guardians. Alexander the Great won his first battle at eighteen. Hannibal was commander-in-chief at twenty-five. Cicero was a pleader in the forum at twenty-five. Galileo at eighteen invented the pendulum as the measurement of time. Pascal wrote a treatise on conic sections at sixteen, and at eighteen discovered the weight of the atmosphere.

Nearer our own day we have the fame of Washington, a colonel in the army at twenty-one, and winning his spurs in the French and Indian war at twenty-two. And the days of our Revolution give us the names of Patrick Henry, whose immortal speech, in which he hurled defiance to tyranny, was made when he was twenty-nine; and of Hamilton, who constructed Fort Washington at twenty, and was an expounder of liberty at twenty-five. Lafayette was only twenty when he came to this country.

Other names the world writes high on its list of famous men may be readily suggested by the mention of representative young men of this century in this and other lands. Goethe was famous at twenty-four. Bryant wrote "Thanatopsis" at twenty-two; Hugo published his first novel at twenty-one; Bulwer wrote his first book at twenty, and the "Last Days of Pompeii" at thirty; Burns' fame was won before the age of twenty-five; Whittier's first book was written at twenty-three; Sumner was lecturing in Harvard Law School at the age of twenty-three; Edison had made notable applications of electricity before he was twenty-five.

Our civil war gave us hosts of young men who honored their youth by their devotion to our country. Sheridan was only thirty when his name was a power, and Custer only twenty-two at the beginning of the war.

The list could be extended indefinitely were it necessary, but the names cited confirm our statement that we cannot emphasize too much the importance of youth. We respect the oak tree with its tough sinews and wide spreading branches, but the future oak is in the acorn.

EDWARD EVERETT EDGERLY.

It is entirely appropriate after this reference to the importance of the duties associated with the education of youth, and of the illustrious examples of those who have won renown in their youth, to recall the name of one who must ever be associated with the inception and formation of this Library. I refer to Edward Everett Edgerly. His portrait has been presented to the Library by Henry M. Brown, and the Trustees in accepting it and giving it a prominent and permanent resting-place on the walls of this building give their personal encouragement to the ambitious youth of to-day who, by stirring qualities of manhood or womanhood, desire to exert a helpful influence upon their own and coming generations.

The names I have mentioned are the names of those so circumstanced that in letters or in active pursuits won distinguished

honor largely outside the ordinary ways of life. In the instance before us we have one who illustrates the worth and potency of a life which asserted itself despite unpropitious conditions. Let his name stand apart from those mentioned, yet only to emphasize suitably what he was and what he did.

It may be said without exaggeration that this Public Library is a monument of his interest in the intellectual growth and welfare of the young. He was only twenty-five years old when he died. His young life passed in pain and wearying sickness. His desire for enlarged usefulness was repressed. A fall when a child induced a spinal trouble which made him a sufferer for years. Physical weakness seemed to be compensated by mental vigor.

He was the son of John S. and Nancy Edgerly, and was born October 26, 1847, in the Edward Everett house, corner of Broadway and Main street. He passed through our primary and grammar schools, and was a member of our High School when fourteen years of age, and was a close student and a favorite in his class. On being graduated in 1863 he entered Tufts College and purposed to give himself to the work of the ministry, but ill-health broke in upon his studies, and he lost one year in his college course. He was not discouraged, but returned and was graduated, being honored with a commencement part, which won for him marked commendation.

His theme was the "Coming Man," and it seemed prophetic of the earnest spirit with which he purposed to take up the work of his own life, and unquestionably would have done, if the body had been able to accomplish what the brain conceived. Surrendering his purpose to enter his chosen profession, he began the study of law in the office of our President, Charles S. Lincoln.

His studies were not continued long, and three years from the time of his graduation from college he entered upon immortal youth.

Yet one year before his death, while president of the Somerville High School Association, he originated the idea, and helped inaugurate measures which resulted in the establishment of this Public Library.

Let his name be honored among the youth of Somerville who deserve well of the city of his habitation, of the immediate com-

munity in which he lived and died. May his memory, in connection with this Library, prove an incentive to the youth of to-day, not only to live to accomplish our ideal of personal worth, but also to help others to think high thoughts, to do brave deeds, and live a noble and blameless life.

This has been done. It is not necessary for us to imagine what may result from the life of any single individual. Would you have evidence of the fact? You have only to look around. What changed conditions belong to these days so contrasted with the days, after all not so distant from us, when a single schoolhouse of wood, with the baldest furnishings of a country school, satisfied the needs of a territory which should bear up the industries and homes and civic worth of this prosperous city. Consider also the evidence which comes from men and women devoted by years of careful training and an experience which has been persistent and faithful to the education of the past and the coming generations. It is with a profound sense of the importance of such evidence that I bring to your attention the testimony now presented. No one can question its competency. The names of those who offer it gives valuable endorsement to every statement made. And all together give cumulative and incontestable proof of all that has been said of the work and the purpose of our Library. It focalizes intellectual power. It encourages what has well been called university extension. I take pride in bringing before you the series of letters which have come into my hands, and invite the most careful consideration of them from every reader:—

Gordon A. Southworth, Superintendent of Schools.

I wish to thank you and, through you, the Trustees of the Public Library on behalf of the School Board, and of the teachers of our schools and their pupils, for the unusual favors and facilities afforded in the use of books during the year now closing.

The teachers have found the Library a very valuable aid in

broadening and giving life and reality to their instruction, especially in the line of geography and history. The spirit of investigation and research, and the desire to know more than the meagre outlines the text-books furnish, have been awakened and gratified.

Children are being directed and educated in the choice and use of books. A taste for good literature is being cultivated, slowly, perhaps, but surely. Interesting and instructive occupation is furnished for hitherto idle hours. Books are finding their way into homes heretofore strangers to them. Gradually the educative and refining and elevating influences which good books always exert are being felt in those portions of the community most needing them.

Teachers are unanimous in their appreciation of the value of the stationary libraries placed in many of the schools for the use of the younger pupils.

Altogether I am confident that no expenditures made by the Library management yield a larger dividend in both present and future good. I trust the plan may be extended to include all our schools, and that the only two great forces which are supported at public expense, the schools and the Library, may continue to work heartily together in promoting the intelligence and happiness of our people.

Charles T. C. Whitcomb, Head Master English High School.

Permit me to express to you in written form, which I have often expressed to you in conversation, my deep appreciation and gratitude for the many privileges you have granted the teachers and pupils of the English High School during the past year.

I desire to record the opinion that no public library in the Commonwealth is doing more, or can do more, for the public schools than the Somerville Public Library. When the use of as many books as are desired, for a time as long as desired, is supplemented by a willingness to purchase books to a reasonable

extent for the use of the school, the serviceableness of a public library surely has reached its highest point of efficiency and power.

As the English High School bases its work largely upon laboratory and library methods, the need and value of books for reference and comparative study are vital points around which the success of the school is centered. Many of the important books necessary for study in history and literature are owned by the school, and yet about thirty volumes have been called for, and twenty-five volumes have been received from the Public Library each week during the past year. In round numbers, this makes about a thousand different volumes actually used by the school.

It would be difficult to keep a record or to make an accurate statement of the exact circulation of these books. Some of them are used one or more times by pupils of classes with a membership of 120 and 170 pupils.

It would not be unreasonable to consider that every volume has been used by at least forty individuals. A grand total of forty thousand volumes is thus obtained! Nor does this astonishing figure show the extent to which the Library is being used for school purposes by members of the English High School alone. Teachers and pupils have private cards, and it is safe to assume that a large majority use them in obtaining books as aids in school work.

The above facts express better than any formal words the vast amount of good which is being accomplished by an institution that, through the will of its Trustees and by the action of its Librarian, has placed itself in the front rank of educational work.

The Somerville Public Library is an educational centre in every sense of the term, and its mission will be potent for the upbuilding of the city and for the enrichment of the lives of its citizens.

In behalf of the teachers and pupils of the English High School, I extend to the Trustees, to yourself, and to your assistants sincere thanks for the valuable aid rendered. I beg to assure you that the many favors and courtesies received have been deeply appreciated, and will be gratefully remembered.

John S. Emerson, Master O. S. Knapp School.

I desire to state that in my opinion the benefits being derived by pupils and teachers more than compensate any and all effort, time, and expense the experiments are costing. We receive on teachers' and pupils' cards from fifty to seventy-five books a week. The teachers are more liberal patrons of the Library than ever before.

The books supplied to rooms in which pupils are not permitted to take books directly from the Library are in constant use. It is only by an accident or oversight that a book is left in a schoolroom over night, excepting in the lowest primary grades. Some of the books in such rooms are engaged by individual pupils some time ahead.

Many pupils who, before the commencement of our experiments, had never read a book, excepting the school text-books, have now read several. The number of such pupils in the middle grades is from twelve to sixteen to a room. To judge by the eagerness of these pupils to relate what they have read and to secure more books, they are highly pleased with the books and with themselves.

Our expectations and predictions respecting the care of Library books have been—with the exception of one theft and a few accidents—completely fulfilled and verified. The children take much better care of the Library books than of their text-books, seeming to regard the former as choice luxuries, and the latter as commonplace necessities.

So much for the use and care of books. The benefits derived are numerous and marked. The increasing use of Library books is strong evidence of an increase of interest in reading. The books have entered some homes that were strangers to them. Many of the children read aloud at home, in some instances to parents who cannot read a word of English, and in one case that has come to our notice the mother cannot even make herself understood in English, but can understand her little girl as she reads simple stories to her.

We receive abundant evidence in one form or another that the books have brought delight to many homes.

The character of the books chosen by pupils using cards is much better than when we began. The classes studying history and geography constantly draw upon the Library for assistance. Their work has accordingly improved. They talk with a degree of freedom, fluency, and fullness that can come only with reading. (I am speaking comparatively now, having in mind the work formerly done by our pupils, not what they ought to do, or may do in the future, or what pupils in other schools are now doing,—simply that our children have improved.)

The oral reading is better, generally speaking, in some classes very much better. The children recognize words more readily, get the thought more quickly and accurately, and consequently read with greater fluency and expression.

The moral influence of the books has, in some instances, been striking. Here is one of the best examples: A girl about thirteen years old, no farther advanced than the fifth grade, could not be kept in the house in the evening, but would get out on some pretext or other, and hang about the streets, in company her parents objected to, till they were in despair about her. Punishment had but little effect. She has become interested in the Library books her teacher has lent her, and now gives no trouble whatever. She had nothing to interest her at home, and went out for company and amusement. The books supply her need, and, we firmly believe, will be the means of salvation of a broad kind to her.

Our teachers have used the books in various ways as rewards, and have been greatly assisted in their work. We are all enthusiastic about them, and are unanimous in our desire that the present plans be continued and extended.

Personally, I feel deeply indebted to the Trustees and to the Librarian for placing in our hands so important a means of education.

It is strange that the people who have been so long struggling to educate the children through the schools, and those who have been equally anxious to accomplish the same end through the Public Library, have not in all these years joined their forces and worked together. Had they done so, how much might have been accomplished!

TEACHERS IN THE KNAPP SCHOOL.

Grade VIII.

The children enjoy them, and take very good care of them. The largest number read by any pupil is nine in eight weeks, and some children who seldom read a book formerly have read several. I find that some other members in most of the families have read them also.

Grade VII.

Judging by the desire of many of the pupils to obtain books from the Library, and the care taken by them when received, my opinion is that most of the children fully appreciate the value of the books and the kindness of the Librarian in loaning them for their use. As to material benefit, two or three months is a short time in which to look for results. Improvement is perceivable in their use of English, and in their fund of general information.

Grade VI.

The Library books are very helpful in many ways. Many boys who would be on the street evenings spend time in reading. One girl in my class, who caused her parents much anxiety by frequenting the society of rough boys in the evening, has become interested in reading. Pupils express themselves in better English and with much more fluency. The books are used as a reward for improvement in geography and reading. More pupils earn the reward than can be furnished with books. One active boy, who did not like to apply himself to study, has improved very much. He had as his reward "Little Lord Fauntleroy" to take home on Friday nights. Children often speak for a certain book to read. Sometimes pupils have to wait their turn before the book can be obtained. Girls are especially fond of Louisa Alcott's books. Boys like books of travel and history.

Grade V.

The children are so interested in the books loaned us that there is a constant call for them; have to refuse quite a number

every day for want of them. I think that the children are learning to love reading more, and it has improved the oral and written language. I judge that the parents are interested, as many times there is a request to keep a book longer or take it again so that father or mother may finish it. The children are very decided in their likes and dislikes of certain books, and give their reasons readily. I also find that in many instances the most troublesome boys are most anxious to take the books.

Grade V.

I wish to express the pleasure I have in seeing the interest my pupils of the fifth grade take in the matter of Library books. I have only been here five weeks, but I think I can already see an improvement in their reading. They seem to be more familiar with ordinary words. The only trouble is in not having enough books to supply the demand. I rarely have a book on hand. I also notice that they are careful in the handling of them.

Grade IV.

My class enjoy the Library books very much; they are eager and anxious to take them. I have used them as a reward for good work, and as an incentive for the same, not always giving the book to the child doing the best work, but to the one who had tried the hardest, even though the work was poorly done. I have loaned the books to children who came from especially poor homes, and learned that one child read aloud from her book to the members of her family. I find if I remark, "John, you read that very well, you may take a Library book to-night," the next day I will have a number of children try to do better than John. Very often I tell the children to listen carefully and choose the best reader, or the one they think tried the hardest to read well; the one selected takes a book. By letting the children make the selection no hard feelings are aroused. I have seen a bright little reader in my third grade sitting on the curbstone recently reading her Library book before school, instead of playing with the other children. I merely mention this incident to show the interest the

children take in the books. I sometimes have a child tell me the story he has read, and after he has finished any child who has read the same book may add facts which have been omitted. This is good drill in oral language, and it also trains the memory. It certainly gives them a command of more words. The Library books have helped my class in various ways, and I am very thankful for their use.

Grade III.

The books are thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by my pupils. The advantages gained are: They talk more intelligently, they read more fluently. The influence on unruly boys is very noticeable. The demand is greater than the supply. Some children speak a week ahead for the books.

Grade III.

They enjoy taking them home, and wish to keep them longer than one night. Some of the poorest children have taken them home, and told me about the story that was read them by an older brother or sister, father or mother. A note has been sent to me thanking me for the book and asking for it again. Children bring their own books, and pick out a story for me to read to the other children. The books have created a taste for reading. The children like what they read, give better expression, and read more understandingly.

Grade II.

I consider them a great benefit, for there has been nothing introduced during my experience that has interested the children so deeply. Instances have occurred where children have asked for a renewal of the loan of a book because their parents have not finished reading it to them, thus showing that the parents also are interested. Were I to have the deciding voice in the matter, I should not only favor the continuance of their use, but should ask for a larger supply.

Grade I.

The books used by me from the Public Library have not been given out to the children for home reading, so I cannot speak of any result from that source. I have read to the children from the books, and, as a reward for good work and behavior, allow them the books to look at the pictures. This has been an inspiration to them, small as they are, for better work.

Lydia J. Page, Principal Cummings School.

It gives me pleasure to furnish a few words with reference to the reading matter furnished from the Public Library.

I have been receiving books for distribution from this source for about two years, and I certainly find an enthusiasm awakened in reading in this grade (fourth) never before equalled in my experience.

I detect the benefit derived in the improved expression given to the daily sight reading, showing an ability to more readily grasp the meaning, also greater fluency owing to enlarged vocabulary.

I find as well that those pupils that have books but seldom at home are the most eager for them, and their choice is surprising, as they invariably choose, and seem intuitively to know, the best books.

I consider this favor from the Trustees of the Public Library to the children in the light of a most worthy charity, and trust the good work may go on, for I am sure the result will more than prove the wisdom of the experiment.

Frances W. Meldrum, Principal Davis School.

I am deeply grateful to the Trustees of the Public Library for the opportunity they have afforded to help form the taste of the children for good reading.

I have forty-two pupils, and each child is given a Library book Friday, the same to be returned Thursday. The children are delighted when the day arrives to carry home a new book. I occasionally have a child tell us about his book, and thus the inter-

est in that book is increased. I find that twenty-three children come from homes where there are no books for children to read. Only eight come from homes where books are taken from the Public Library. Within the last two weeks several have intimated that an elder sister or brother intends taking books from the Library.

Four children have been very careful in selecting books, and on inquiry I found that the fathers also read them, and desired books on travel or history. Several mothers read "Among the Meadow People" and other books on nature, and sent me word that they liked the stories and had never read any such books before.

Twenty children report that they read aloud while the mother sews or does other housework. I find that these have improved in ability to read understandingly from their school readers, and show a marked improvement in expressing the same.

One sister, aged eighteen, reads and enjoys the books which one pupil takes home. Several of the pupils read or tell the story to their younger brothers and sisters.

Charles E. Brainard, Master Edgerly School.

. . . The subject of children's reading is one in which I am much interested, and I feel that we might, in view of the unusual facilities afforded by the Trustees of the Public Library, do much more in this line than we are now doing.

Someone has said that the only difference between the mind of the child of the slums and the mind of the child surrounded with books, music, art, and all that makes ideal home life was that the former had nothing to think of, while the latter's environment furnished abundant material for thought.

If the above is not wholly true, it has at least the kernel of thought, and I think we none of us question that the knowledge and love of books, good books, is most valuable in giving the child something to think about, something, if a right choice be made, worth thinking about.

The closer the union between the Library and the school, the more easy should it be for each and every child to attain this knowledge of books.

In our eighth and ninth grades we have eighty-five children; sixty-nine of these have cards and take books from the Library. This is a great increase over the record of the last three years. These pupils have cards because they find the Library helpful, and not because pressure has been brought to bear upon them to take out cards before they have a desire to read. If we thought best, we could easily persuade the eighty-five to make application for cards.

These eighty-five children come from seventy different homes, and I find from investigation that the parents of only fifteen of these children have cards and take books from the Library. It would be interesting and profitable to know how many of these children will continue to use the Library when they have homes of their own. I predict a much larger percentage than is shown by the figures above.

With this in mind, I am inclined to think it would be much better, and tend to formation of better habits, if the children were obliged to visit the Library for their books, instead of having the books brought to them, unless the Trustees, in the near future, arrange for a house-to-house delivery of books. There is one great advantage, however, in the use of the school box: all books pass through the hands of the teacher, and she knows what the boy reads.

That children have been influenced in their choice of books I feel sure, from the fact that the really bad, injurious reading formerly smuggled into schoolrooms seems now to be a thing of the past, and I believe it is not read outside as heretofore.

Mina J. Wendell, Master Morse School.

I think the pupils of Somerville schools fully appreciate the favors granted them by the Trustees of the Public Library. This is shown by the eagerness on their part to get and fill a blank, which permits them to add their names to the list of readers.

Many pupils, particularly in eighth grades, have been using a card belonging to older members of the family, and when the privilege of using their own is given to them the pleasure shown by smiling faces is gratifying.

I have in mind just here a pupil who graduated a few years ago. I heard that he was reading dime novels, so I asked him to take books from the Library. He said he did not care to, but I was determined he should read one good book. I gave him "Lorna Doone" to read. I thought the hero would interest him. He read it, and asked me to get another just as good. I gave him "Seven Oaks," by J. G. Holland; then "Napoleon," by J. S. C. Abbott. He read them all, and asked me to get a card and fill it for him, and said he would never read a dime novel if he could get such interesting books gratis.

The above statement came to mind by your question concerning the value of the facilities by which books can be obtained from our Library. If our pupils can be made to understand that better and more wholesome reading can be easily obtained, they will save their dimes and flock to the Library.

Many pupils have been led to read who would not have taken books from the Library if some influence had not induced them to.

Most pupils depend upon the teacher for choice of books. The selection of the teacher is received without question. I seldom hear a child say, "My parents wish me to read such and such books."

The report that a book is interesting spreads rapidly through a class after one pupil has read and liked a book, and other pupils are anxious to read the same book; in this way a part of the teacher's work is done by the pupils themselves.

Whether pupils show greater intelligence or not depends upon the one who directs the reading in a great measure.

Left to themselves, pupils will elect the lighter fiction, they have an idea that biography and history are too deep and dry for them, and therefore they need to be led into this line of literature.

Once interested, they begin to see the fascination of such work; they see that it is true to life, and life and truth are often stranger than fiction.

Certainly good comes from this circulation, a taste and love for the best literature is aroused, and second, and best of all, the building of character goes on silently but surely, and in future years the readers of to-day will pay back in good coin to the city in good morals and good citizenship the debt they owe the Trustees of the Somerville Library for the favors of to-day.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION.

It is to be remembered that a public library is not to be regarded as a luxury. There have been times not altogether remote from the history of our beloved Commonwealth, when books were the possession of those who held that factitious advantage which wealth gives. Libraries belonged to a class which could command leisure, and the books composing them were usually of a character fitted to an abstracted and contemplative life. The leisurely recluse life of the student wrought a quiet and cloistered meditation. The man of affairs, too busy with practical interests, affected to despise books, and the bookworm and the dry-as-dust philosopher were held as legitimate subjects for sarcasm.

We are learning in these days that intellectual culture is not necessarily dissociated from active, practical, executive ability. The scholar is not necessarily blear-eyed, round-shouldered, and thin-chested. He may have vigor of body, strong muscles, steady nerves, and a well proportioned presence. The literary champion may be an adept gymnast.

This leads to the recognition of the fact that the spirit of books is pervading the life of the people. There is no premium on ignorance. The college graduate may be best qualified for business operations, scientific investigation, and the practical management of important social and civic interests.

No class holds the monopoly of intelligence. The language of the school was once merely professional; to-day it is the vernacular of the street. In this education of the people the library has had an important influence, and in every well-appointed vil-

lage and town the literary club and the circulating library have been factors in its growth.

The daily press is a great educational force. Every issue invites the reader to study physical geography in its market reports, and political economy in the mutual relations of separate states and nations, and statesmanship in the conduct of civic affairs. To do this there must be some well-ordered plan for council. No one apart from others can have the large resources which all united may secure. The home library may be good, but it is restricted; so, too, is the club library and the semi-public library; but the demand to-day is for a library open to the use of all, when the advantages of all the lesser libraries may be supplemented by books the average home cannot afford to have, for which, indeed, it has no accommodation, and which shall enlarge the field of investigation in all directions.

The public library is, therefore, good for the general reader and for the special student.

We cannot overestimate the value of such a library. It has become an important instrumentality for the diffusion of general intelligence and the growth of intellectual culture. It is not for the favored few, but for the uncrowned, but kingly, many. The public library is the college for the common people. Our work has been based upon the recognition of this fact, while the breadth of thought and the luxuriant growth of educational methods and needs may have exceeded our most hopeful anticipation; nevertheless, it was felt to be prophetic in the character and lives of our people. Therefore, you can read in the report prepared for your inspection and consideration only three years ago the following: "At no distant day you must consider and solve the problem of furnishing generous, ample rooms for the following purposes: General delivery and a card catalogue; reading room worthy of the name; reference room large enough for the needs of this constantly-growing city; rooms for individual research and study; room for cataloguing; room for covering and repairing books; rooms for relics; art rooms; music rooms; and classrooms."

The "no distant day" has come. There must be an enlargement of library facilities in order to satisfy the demands of those

who, in our homes and in our schools, have been educating themselves for vigorous and useful, intellectual and practical pursuit. This conclusion has the cordial endorsement of men of action and men of thought. To such an extent has this been emphasized, that one writer has said with unmistakable force that the "recognition of the public library as a factor in public education may almost be taken as the test of a city's prosperity and promise."

In confirmation of this, and to add weight to the reflections already made, we may cite the language of a man who, in a long life of eminent and national usefulness, has shown himself to have mastery of practical affairs in civil life and national statesmanship, while he has shown remarkable ability in marshaling to his assistance information and privileges gained by careful literary pursuit. I refer to our senior Massachusetts senator, Hon. George F. Hoar, who says:—

"The library in the new education is to be an important adjunct to the school. It is to continue through life, for many persons, the education which the school begins." And he adds what is equally important: "It is to occasion a revolution in the methods of the school itself. No town can long maintain a high rank among civilized communities unless it adds to its other institutions a well-chosen library."

Granting all this to be true, it becomes necessary that the public library should adjust itself to the present and future needs of every class in the community, the superficial reader of current literature, the careful investigator in the realms of every branch of study, and furnish a thoughtful preparation for those who, under improved advantages, may be expected to make the summit of any present attainment the base line of what they themselves may build.

To bring this closely before us, let us note first of all the reading room. This room should be sufficiently commodious to accommodate the enlarging interests of the many who wish to become familiar with current literature.

How are we situated with reference to this? Very cursory examination will discover that we are lamentably unable to meet the demands now daily made. Our facilities are entirely inade-

quate. In a rapidly-growing city of fully 55,000 inhabitants, the reading room of our Public Library can comfortably accommodate at any one time twenty-five readers. Of course we recognize the fact that daily and weekly papers, monthly and quarterly magazines, and other periodicals visit many homes, but not all papers and all magazines are in every home. It is needed that there should be provided a place for the comparison of views, and it will not be thought extravagant if it is stated with some emphasis, after a careful consideration of the subject, that there should be accommodation for at least one hundred readers. It is a notorious fact that well-nigh every day visitors come to our present reading room, find the room full, and go away disappointed. Is this right? Should our people, young or old, be so limited in the advantages they desire?

Let it be remembered that this refers to the use of a literature which is in immediate demand, and can be consulted only in the reading room; that is to say, papers and periodicals are rightfully to be held in this room until the next issue, then they become subject to ordinary circulation. But questions of immediate and pressing value in magazines of this country and from Europe should be open more readily to those who may desire to study them.

Let us also consider our reference room.

It should be a room open for those who desire to consult books with which not many private libraries are furnished, and which, indeed, are not sought for by many, unless for some specific and temporary purpose. It should also be a room where those who desire to pursue certain studies, or to get some information on particular subjects, can do so undisturbed. Yet our reference room cannot give any adequate accommodation to more than twenty-five. Many country villages give larger facilities. No one can deny that the provision we have made is entirely out of proportion to the number of those, in this goodly city, who may fairly be supposed to wish to make use of such a room. We all agree that the most valuable service this Library can give is from its reference room. The good that a well-equipped reference department can do is incalculable. It is the most important part of a

public library, and it is the part of this Library that has been, up to the present time, sadly and inexcusably neglected only for want of proper room.

The city of Chicago has two libraries entirely devoted to reference purposes, and these libraries have been furnished and fitted up at an expense of millions of dollars each. For many years New York did not have a circulating library, but it did have the Cooper Institute, the Astor Library, the Lenox Library, and many others devoted entirely to reference work.

The present reference room is altogether too small, and cannot be used during the evening. It should be a room large, commodious, well-equipped, and thoroughly lighted, and on the same floor with the general library from which books may be taken for temporary use.

These are matters not to be gainsaid, and I am glad that they are matters upon which you all agree. They are obvious to anyone who will give only cursory attention to existing facts.

There is still another matter which deserves your careful consideration, and to which I will call your attention, namely, a children's room. That is to say, a room where small children can have a certain freedom which they cannot have in an ordinary waiting or delivery room, or in a reading room. Here under judicious restraint they should be able to handle books, look at their illustrations, sit at tables and study if they so desire, and be aided in the selection of books by a careful, well-instructed assistant. I would have a judiciously-selected juvenile library in this room, and let our youth have free access to its shelves, that they may see and handle books in all the classes of literature, and they would soon learn that not all of the interesting books are in the department of stories. This room should not only be light and attractive, but its walls should be adorned with choice engravings and pictures, and whatever can be provided suitable to educate the eye.

This is not a mere matter of entertainment or sentiment, but is highly educational. The necessary discipline which should make such a place orderly will teach the children self-restraint, courtesy in behavior, and a sense of responsibility in handling

property entrusted to them. Besides, such an attractive place would help, not immediately, possibly, but gradually, in keeping from the streets, and would help awaken within them a desire for such reading as will make the home more attractive and themselves nobler and better boys and girls.

The value of the Public Library in these particulars, and especially of a children's room, cannot be questioned. In the words of Senator Hoar, to quote again from one of rare good judgment and knowledge, the library "enables children to begin at an early age the practice of original investigation. This it substitutes for the old fashion of learning by rote a few dry facts and dates, a process which the noble nature of the child loathes, learning with immense labor what he forgets with immense ease."

The children's room is the children's library, their own, where they are to be at home, the occupants to be especially considered, and where adults must be content with a secondary consideration.

This arrangement would relieve the present charging desk, and would facilitate the delivery of books to adults.

However briefly, and therefore crudely, we have referred to these matters, enough has been said, it is hoped, to quicken a thoughtful interest in them. The public needs what has been pointed out, and it is the part of wisdom to meet that need as a present fact and to anticipate, so far as can be done wisely, what to-morrow will demand. It should not be forgotten that the public library is an important part of a great system of public education. It is not a convenience for a few, it is not a school limited to any age, it is a great public university, which shall fit the demands of the few, help and supplement every school, and furnish material help to the public itself in its elective studies, whatever they may be.

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

And now I call your attention to a matter which at this time deserves particular attention. In conformity with your vote passed November 29, it becomes my duty to consider specially the significance of our quarter of a century.

You have recognized from time to time not only what my report has emphasized, the present work of the year, but also the steps by which we have come to it, and the exhilarating yet serious prospect before us. For let it be said that a duty performed brings not only a sense of satisfaction, but of continued responsibility. It is not only for us to enter upon an inheritance, nor is it for us only to toil for some worthier achievement, but the obligation is also laid upon us to prepare for, and, so far as possible, predict, the future.

There can be no dispute that the years of the past quarter of a century have won for us a notable elevation. It has come not by easy dalliance and light-hearted wishes, but by earnest, persistent, and sustained efforts. More than two thousand years ago a Greek author, writing of Works and Days, said: "Before virtue the immortal gods have put the sweat of man's brow, long and steep is the way to it, and rugged at first."

Without any extravagance of thought, and in very simple, commonplace diction, we may recognize the underlying thought of Hesiod in what has been done.

Each day has its own special meaning. It may be bright with the elasticity of hope, gifted with power, given to courageous enterprise and that heroism of faith that takes hold of the prophecy of the future as if it were a present reality. Another day may drag its hours along in wearisome monotony, and all its moments fall as sand in an hour-glass—a veritable desert of Sahara, with little prospect of palm-tree shade or living spring of refreshment. But days added together sum up the character of a year, and the years give us at last the story of a century. Our century is only on its way to completion, but if what remains adds to the interest the quarter of a century now ended excites, the full story will have a marvelous record to relate.

A quarter of a century is, after all, a commanding elevation. From it we may look over a prospect that reveals the pressure and growth of power little suspected as we toiled upward to gain its vantage ground. It is with the years even of a quarter of a century as it is with the underbrush and branches, and heavy, toilsome pathway up through ravines and woodlands to the mountain

top. The details of the way obscure our vision. We see only in part. We are blinded from the beauty of the whole by the weariness of climbing. But from the top there is not only expanse, but revelation. To get above the forests and the ledges of rock and then look down upon them, is to find outspread a panorama of serene and solemn grandeur, overarched by a firmament glorious with the emblazonry of the sun, or sublime with the expressive silence of the stars.

This is not fancy or rhetoric. It is prose fact. We catch a hint of it when we turn our ears away from the tuning of many discordant instruments and listen to the same instruments as they melt into the strains of a symphony by Beethoven or a song without words by Mendelssohn.

Our quarter of a century, if we let it give perspective to our thought, has its power and its beauty. We will not praise it overmuch, but we must not fail to recognize what has been won by earnest effort. Stop to examine the detail of a painting, even by Rubens or Raphael, and you see blotches of color; but stand so that the purpose, the design, the commanding thought of the artist may be seen and felt, and the details of blotches become in harmonious combination a noble and uplifting whole.

Think what has been done. Look through and study the reports made concerning your library, and then judge if the progress won is not commendable. If, indeed, the work done has not almost the strength and vigor of a poem. Is not the poet the doer? And has any deed made visible a better poetry of thought and life, within the boundaries of our beautiful city, than our Public Library?

Emerson says of Goethe's "Wilhelm Meister," "No book of this century can compare with it in its delicious sweetness, so new, so provoking to the mind, gratifying it with many and so solid thoughts, just insights into life, and manners, and characters, so many good hints for the conduct of life, so many unexpected glimpses into a higher sphere." What better or more adequate description of our Library, in its wealth of science, in its scope of speed! Our city writes its history in its schools and churches, in its factories and marts of trade, in its homes and philanthropies.

We neither disdain nor undervalue such eloquent words, but if such are chapters in the history of Somerville, our Public Library is a full volume. It has stored, as in a reservoir, imagination, and fact, and thought. It sends forth, with perennial sweetness and light, a pervasive influence which enters into every department of home or public life. It threads its way by unseen viaducts into every part of the body politic for civic health and mental athletics.

It is interesting to look over its records to learn from what inconsiderable beginnings it took its rise, and perhaps I can furnish no better summary of it than by quoting from my Historical Sketch given in the report of 1895.

"The question of establishing a public library in the town of Somerville had been suggested by different citizens for many years previous to 1869, but Edward E. Edgerly, president of the Somerville High School Association, seems to have taken a most active interest in the matter. Prevented by lingering sickness and subsequent death from maturing his plans, he had enthusiastically labored to instill his ideas into the minds of his associates, among whom was Henry M. Brown, who has the honor of taking the first active measures towards the establishment of the Library, and in persuading the members of the Somerville High School Association to undertake the movement. Mr. Brown, with the consent of the executive committee of that body, sent letters to the Board of Selectmen and Board of School Committee of the town, inviting them to co-operate with the association in procuring a public library for Somerville. The selectmen promptly responded by appointing a committee, consisting of three of its members, to confer with a similar committee of the association. This latter body immediately selected three gentlemen, and the two delegations met in December, 1869, and consisted of the following well-known citizens, viz.: Austin Belknap, Horace Haskins, and Francis Houghton, of the Board of Selectmen, and Edward C. Booth, Henry M. Brown, and George S. Littlefield, of the High School Association.

"In March, 1870, the same committee was reappointed, and later in the year prepared a brief plan for founding and operating the proposed library. By this plan the executive committee of the

association and the Board of Selectmen were to meet and elect a Board of Trustees for the Library, three of whom were to be members of the Board of Selectmen, three members of the High School Association, and three citizens at large, and it was so arranged that the term of office of one of each class should expire each year. In accordance with this plan an election was held, and the following-named gentlemen were provisionally chosen, viz.: Austin Belknap, Henry M. Brown, Samuel A. Carlton, Horace P. Hemenway, Oren S. Knapp, John P. Marshall, Edwin Mills, Frank H. Raymond, and Columbus Tyler.

"But the town, at a meeting held April 29, 1871, did not see fit to approve of the action thus taken, but 'Voted, that a free public library be established,' and appointed a committee, consisting of the above-mentioned board, and Russell H. Conwell, Joshua H. Davis, Samuel C. Hunt, George S. Littlefield, Rev. Charles Lowe, Isaac Pitman, and Quincy A. Vinal, 'to report a plan for operating the same.'

"This committee organized by the choice of Rev. Charles Lowe as chairman, and George S. Littlefield as secretary. They devoted much time in perfecting plans and considering rules and regulations for the management of the Library, and in June appointed a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Vinal, Hunt, and Littlefield, who prepared a report, which was substantially that finally presented by the whole committee to the town.

"Rev. Charles Lowe and Professor John P. Marshall, being absent in Europe, were unable to attend to the duties of this committee, and Rev. G. W. Durell and John R. Poor were invited to act in their places, and Austin Belknap was elected chairman. At a town meeting held July 22, the citizens ratified the change in the committee, granted them further time, and authorized them to report in print.

"The report of this committee was accepted and adopted by the citizens in town meeting assembled, November 7, 1871.

"In anticipation of the soon realized change from town to city form of government, it was provided that the first Board of Trustees of the Library should be elected by the first City Council, as soon after their organization as convenient. Accordingly, at a

meeting of the City Council in convention, holden October 21, 1872, the following-named gentlemen were elected Trustees of the Public Library: Three years, John P. Marshall, Austin Belknap, Charles A. Guild; two years, Quincy A. Vinal, Edward C. Booth, Michael J. Canavan; one year, George O. Brastow, William H. Furber, Selwyn Z. Bowman.

"November 14 the Board of Trustees organized by electing John P. Marshall president, and Edward C. Booth secretary. November 19 Isaac Pitman was elected Librarian.

"May 1, 1873, the Library was opened to the public, in the present City Hall, with 2,384 volumes on the shelves, of which 715 volumes were given by thirty-six donors."

June 1, 1875, Isaac Pitman resigned as Librarian, and his assistant, Miss H. A. Adams, was elected to his place.

The brief reference to both Mr. Pitman and Miss Adams deserves to be supplemented by a fuller statement of the admirable work done by these devoted library pioneers. It is well for us to remember as we look back that the work done, while it belongs to us as a present possession, is to be referred back to those who wrought it out piecemeal. We praise the orchard for the fruit of the harvest, and we count the apples in heaps and barrels, and price them in the market. But let us not forget the orchard of the springtide, when the apples were in the apple blossoms, and the pink and white of the petals were the only prophecy of the beauty that flushes the cheek of the Nonesuch or the Baldwin in the autumn. It is worth our while to remember that we honor ourselves best when we give due reverence to those who preceded us. Our Library to-day, with its multiplied facilities for nobler work, is the outcome of the Library of twenty-five years ago, in the first report of which we find this suggestive purpose stated by the then Board of Trustees, "They endeavored to make the Public Library a fountain of choice reading, open freely to all classes of the community, and they commend it as such to the continued kindness and patronage of their fellow-citizens." Whoever wrote these calm, deliberate words, read carelessly, if read at all, by "their fellow-citizens" twenty-five years ago, published the project

which made this anniversary possible. It is noteworthy that it was given into the hands of one man and one woman to make the fulfillment of the purpose of the Board of Trustees possible. The man was Isaac Pitman. I quote from my last annual report the following concerning him:—

"Isaac Pitman was born in Providence, R. I., August 20, 1807. He was the son of Isaac and Ann (Updike) Pitman. His mother was a member of the Updike family, so often conspicuous in Rhode Island annals. His father was born on School street, Boston, and moved from there to Providence in 1775. He had been a member of the famous Boston Tea Party, and was afterwards a captain in the Continental army. After the war, he was for many years an importer and dealer in hardware in Providence.

"Young Isaac at one time attended a dame school, to which colored pupils were admitted. He was quite content, until the admission of a new scholar, when the African race was in the majority. He then strongly objected to being a member of what he, perhaps naturally, called a colored school. The remembrance of this greatly amused him in later life. He afterwards spent some time at a boarding school in Barrington, R. I., and in 1820 he attended Phillips Exeter Academy. His father died when he was eleven years of age. Most of his youth was spent in Providence, Roxbury, and Boston. At the latter place, his home was with an elder married sister, Mrs. Wild, who lived there from 1821 to 1825. About this time, or a little later, on account of his health, he passed a year on a coffee plantation in Cuba, with relatives named Jenks, who wished to adopt him; but he declined, giving, among other reasons, his dislike of the system of slavery. About 1840 he made a trip to Europe on a packet ship, which was the ordinary method at this time of crossing the ocean.

"For many years he was a member of the firm of Mixer & Pitman, wholesale dealers in starch and oil. Mr. Mixer carried on a store in Lowell, while Mr. Pitman managed the business in Boston. He also took an interest in military affairs, being an officer in a militia company in Roxbury, and later a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery.

"In 1844 he married Miss Harriet Minot, daughter of Judge Stephen Minot, of Haverhill, Mass., a lady who fully shared his anti-slavery proclivities, and whose mental and social qualities attracted to their home quite a coterie of literary personages, including Whittier, Garrison, Lucy Larcom, Abby M. Diaz, and Erastus Brooks.

"His brother-in-law, Mr. Charles Minot, died in 1866, and in 1867 Mr. Pitman removed from Providence, where the family had spent several years, to Summer street, Somerville, where Mrs. Pitman died. After her death, he made his home with his son in Germantown, Pa., where he passed away, somewhat suddenly, December 20, 1891.

"Mr. Pitman was a man of ready wit, a good story-teller, and a genial companion. In his youthful days he was fond of practical jokes. He used to tell how on one occasion he outwitted a court of justice. Being summoned as a juror, he simply took the juror's oath under protest. The judge, after consideration, saw that it would not do to let such a juror serve, and so excused him. In his business life, his absolute business integrity was above reproach. In his religious belief, he could accept neither the Unitarian nor Trinitarian view of Christ, although for many years an attendant in Trinitarian churches, either Baptist or Congregational. But when he became acquainted with the doctrines of Swedenborg, he accepted them at once, and ardently advocated them the rest of his life. In his later years, especially, he took great delight in the Bible.

"For nearly five years he has slept with his fathers. His remains were interred at Mount Auburn, near the cities of Boston and Somerville, which he loved so well, and where so much of his life was passed.

"His surviving children are Mrs. Harriet M. Laughlin, of Boston, and Mr. S. Minot Pitman, of Providence. The oldest son, a youth of much promise, died in 1867, when a student of the Harvard Law School."

Let us add to this resume of biographical fact what concerns more immediately our Public Library. It is not enough to state

that he was elected its first Librarian November 19, 1872, nor to add that under his supervision it was opened for business May 1, 1873, this also needs emphasis, that he laid its cornerstone. Truly he was sustained by men of such clear prevision that they recognized the importance of a public library. Truly they dug in the trench and laid the foundation, and their work is the substructure upon which the edifice erected now stands secure. But Isaac Pitman with square and compasses laid the cornerstone plumb, level, and square. His quiet enthusiasm, his persistent labor began the visible work which arrests our attention and commands our admiration. He set the first books upon the shelves. He catalogued those books. He issued them to the first readers. He incited public-spirited men and women to add volumes, which helped swell the number of those open to the use of the public. You must measure his deeds not by themselves, but what they led unto. Easy enough to stand an egg on end, after Columbus has shown how. Easy enough to build the mighty, ponderous engines of to-day, since Stephenson told how to build the Rocket. Easy enough to float steamships that carry the wealth and population of a township, and bridge the Atlantic within the space of a week, since the first steamboat that did cross the ocean, slowly but surely, notwithstanding Lardner declared it could not carry coal enough to ferry the waste of waters. Our first Librarian, whose portrait may well adorn the pages of this book, did honor to himself and to this city by what he wrought when he began the Public Library. Let it not be forgotten that he contributed out of his own private library books for public use. And let it not be forgotten that his devoted daughter, Mrs. Harriet Minot Laughlin, made the first considerable donation in money to our Library. Her gift of one thousand dollars stands unique. It monuments the father's original work and honors it, and the daughter's affectionate respect for his memory, and her own womanly interest in the moral and intellectual life of the city of her youth. Nor should it be forgotten to make more emphatic what we record, that while one hundred and eight towns in this State have had library buildings given them,

only seven cities besides Somerville have established and maintained free libraries without princely gifts.

His assistant, the second librarian, Miss Harriet A. Adams, must not be forgotten. It may be said that the record of the first score of years belonging to this Library was written by Miss Adams. Great credit belongs to her. Her woman's hands were patient and tireless. She devoted herself with unswerving interest to the welfare of the Library. It became so much a part of her life that she was sensitive of its fair fame and good success. Her singular faithfulness and ability commanded the approbation of the Board of Trustees. And when the Library entered upon an enlarged work, demanding an experience different from that which had been given to the ordinary routine of duties, it was with keen regret that her services were concluded. It is impossible to estimate those services at their true value. The Trustees in the first report given to the city after her election said of Miss Adams, that she had "performed its duties (those pertaining to the position of permanent Librarian) with great acceptance and success." This is the record of all the years she devoted with conscientious fidelity to the Library. It is eminently fitting at the close of a quarter of a century that such commendation should be emphasized,—all the more as every step of progress that has been made reveals the carefulness with which the first steps are taken, and the way projected for farther advance.

But while we thus gladly praise these two pioneers of the work done, while we celebrate, let us not pass in silence the thirty-five men who, as members of the Board of Trustees, wrought diligently in their time and place. Somerville may well be proud of those who, drawn from all ranks and faiths, added their combined influence to the furtherance of the enterprise which is our joy to-day. It would be invidious to single out individuals. Their portraits and names are given in this tribute to our quarter of a century. We find among them ex-mayors, ex-members of Congress, clergymen, professors in colleges, doctors, lawyers, leading men of business. Men of worth taken from every rank and faith. In their choice no question of politics or sectarian belief obtruded

itself. They were citizens who gave their services and to whom we of to-day owe a debt of gratitude. Four of the thirty-five are dead, Mr. Pitman is dead, but the influence of their lives continues and will be immortal.

Such men have been representatives of a public spirit which endears our city to its inhabitants, and which may well be emulated by every town and city throughout our Commonwealth. Our city may well be built, like ancient Rome, upon seven hills, since her civic character and her generous consideration for the moral and intellectual character of her municipality have been shown by her substantial public edifices, by her churches, by her school buildings, by her business marts, and, last but not least, by her Public Library. Everyone who helps swell the census roll of Somerville may say with justifiable pride, as did one of old, "I am a citizen of no mean city."

"Looking across a wide valley in the month of July," says John Burroughs, "I have noted that the fields, except the meadows, have a ruddy tinge, and that corn, which near at hand seemed to completely envelope the soil, at that distance gave only a slight shade of green." So it is, we may add, that from the vantage ground of sober judgment, while we estimate at its just valuation what has been done, we cannot fail to see the "ruddy tinge" of the original soil out of which the harvest growth of to-day has sprung.

Consider, then, what has been done. Time and space will not permit minute details, for these we must refer you to the complete files of the admirable reports of your board, but certain prominent facts may be stated.

The Library opened its doors to the public with 2,384 volumes on the shelves, it now has 37,708. The first month it issued 1,700 books for home reading, the last month 20,490. During the first year of its existence 31,317 volumes were circulated, during the last year 193,491. The Library found a home in one small room in the City Hall, to-day we have a building of eight rooms, and are sadly in immediate need of more. Then the space occupied appeared ample, now we are crowded for lack of room. Then

a dictionary and cyclopaedia, with one small table, seemed ample for reference work, now a goodly-sized room and many well-filled shelves of valuable books fail to meet the demands for research and study.

The growth of interest taken in the Library since its beginning may be indicated by a brief citation of facts, and I herewith submit a few dry figures: May 1, 1873, as has been already stated, the number of books in the Library was 2,384. To quite a considerable extent private individuals donated books, and made the number stated possible. The circulation this year was 18,047 volumes. It was estimated that the population of the city at this time was about 16,000. Two years later, that is in 1875, there were 5,235 books in the Library, and the circulation was 39,025, and the population of the city had increased to 21,594 inhabitants. In 1880 the population was 24,985, the Library contained 8,614 books, with 67,894 volumes circulated; in 1885, 29,992 population, 12,788 books, 65,450 circulation; in 1890, 40,117 population, 20,112 books, 95,127 circulation; in 1895, 52,200 population, 31,739 books, 106,341 circulation; in 1897, 40,902 books, with a circulation of 193,491. The city has gained about 154 per cent. in population since the Library was started, while the circulation of the Library has increased over 392 per cent. over the number of books circulated during the year 1875.

The total circulation of books for home use up to January 1, 1898, has been 1,949,953. The total number of books placed in the Library up to the present time is 40,902, and the number worn out, lost, and discarded since the Library was started appears to be 3,194, making the number of volumes in the Library at the present time 37,708.

The aggregate annual appropriations from the city for the past twenty-five years for the support of the Library have been $80,139.38, and the dog licenses, amounting to $40,946.62, making the total sum received $121,086.

The present Library building was erected in 1884-85, at an expense of $28,338.45, exclusive of the land, and was altered and

a steel book stack erected in 1895, at an expense of $5,967.50. These changes doubled the shelf-room capacity of the building, and furnished accommodation for about 60,000 volumes.

Three changes of importance, which were inaugurated during the year 1895, should be mentioned. They do not appeal to the public at large, save only as the public at large avail themselves of them. They emphasize changes made after much careful thought. They have proved of much value in furnishing convenience to those having the care of the Library and of those using the Library.

Classification.—It was for years the custom in almost all the libraries to give books a fixed location, shelving them according to size and date of purchase. It happened, therefore, that new books were farthest away from the delivery desk, and the topic treated had very little, if any, order of sequence. To-day there is a careful classification of all books, according to a modified Dewey, or decimal, system, with twelve classes. So that, for instance, books of science, or of religion, have a department of their own.

Finding List.—A new catalogue, or finding list, was prepared and published on an entirely new plan. Formerly, the catalogue must be consulted as an ordinary list, arranged under one alphabet, now all books are classified and arranged under three heads, subject, titles, authors. Thus indicating the resources of the Library in each department.

Charging System.—It was deemed necessary to discharge a book before issuing and charging another. This occasioned much annoying delay. Now, when a book is returned and a new book is to be charged, the latter is done immediately and the returned book discharged at the convenience of those having that duty in hand. No book leaves a shelf without its slip being transferred to its proper place in the charging case. It is known, therefore, at any time whether a book is in the hands of a reader, withheld to be repaired, at the bindery, or in use for reference. This lessens the possibility of loss, expedites the delivery of books,

and enables the Librarian and his assistants to have full control of the Library at all times. This brief mention is made to changes, mentioned somewhat at length in former reports, to remind those interested of the watchful care taken of the property entrusted to us, and for making the Library more immediately convenient to those using it.

The Trustees have aimed to introduce all successful modern methods, not only to make the Library more attractive, but more useful. The frequenters of the Library are not only more rapidly, but more easily, accommodated in receiving or returning books, and if they prefer to consult books at the Library, the reference room is open daily for their convenience, and a trained attendant is ever ready to assist them.

In this connection it should be stated that a very careful inspection is made of all books and other publications admitted for general public use, so that all may be fairly well assured that nothing will be issued from the Library for the general reader which is not merely objectionable, but questionable. Of course there must be some margin of judgment, but with the care exercised by the Librarians and the oversight of the Board of Trustees, it may be taken for granted that nothing harmful will be sent into the homes of our city.

Special facilities for the study of special topics have been provided, so that students, young or old, may find helpful assistance in well-nigh every study.

Another feature of the Library which has been extendedly noticed in another part of this report should be mentioned here, that is the issuing of special libraries, under the direction and advice of the public school teachers, for the use of pupils too young to hold Library cards. Children in our schools are informed of books that will be helpful to them, and under certain restrictions volumes asked for are sent to schools as desired, so far as the limited resources of the Library will permit.

Not only is the attention of the public called to new books and to standard books added to the Library through the local press, and by displaying them in the delivery room, but a monthly

bulletin is issued directly from the Library for general information on topics of literary, scientific, and historic interest.

All such methods are held to be the best practical, and yet as tentative. The effort is being made all the time to make improvements in the Library itself, and in the means employed to bring its resources into immediate and common use.

The help of all patrons is invited in suggesting improvements. Especially do we ask this aid in the selection of books. The fact is recognized in all reading, for instruction or for entertainment, that a worthy book is an instrument of moral and intellectual power, which will warrant a good return in ideas and in life. This is true not of those books that have a popular character, and can go to the home or the school, but of books which are more fitted for occasional reference, and which are to be consulted at the Library.

So it is we stand upon the summit of our quarter of a century looking back with gratitude upon the labors of the past, and forward with cheerful confidence into the hopes of the future. It is wise for us to review what has been done. It seems to steady our own efforts in doing the work at our hand, and to toughen our courage as we go forth into the untried days before us. A wise use of experience may help us greatly in all new enterprise. The victory of yesterday aids us in the conflict of to-day. It is from the heights we have won that we look toward the heights whose summits we fondly hope will sometime be under our feet. Hugh Miller studied the stones of a quarry, working diligently as a stone mason, till at last he traced the footsteps of the Creator in the old red sandstone. Sir Walter Scott dwelt within the ivy-wreathed castles of old, listened to the songs and legends of their walls, and so not only reconstructed the past, delighted his present, but won fame for the future. Gibbon sat amid the ruins of Rome, mused over her departed greatness, studied the days he mused in silence, dissected the motives of men who had once lived, judged their conduct and aim, and so wrote that masterpiece of historical rendition, the "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire."

As I close this report of the twenty-five years whose annals we give into the custody of those archives wherein we preserve all that belongs to the history of our beloved town and city of Somerville, I refer again to the poet's words which were quoted as we began this report, and, as we count the years of the quarter of a century now ended, let us "level that lift, to pass and continue beyond."

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN S. HAYES,

Librarian.

Somerville, December 27, 1897.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 32443
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
1898



26TH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC LIBRARY

CITY OF SOMERVILLE

Massachusetts

1898

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 32443
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1899.

TWENTY-SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE

MASSACHUSETTS

FOR THE YEAR 1898



BOSTON:
AMERICAN PRINTING AND ENGRAVING CO.
50 Arch Street.
1899.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, January 18, 1899.

Referred to Committee on Printing, to be printed in the annual reports. Sent down for concurrence.

GEORGE I. VINCENT, *Clerk.*

IN COMMON COUNCIL, January 18, 1899.

Referred to Committee on Printing, to be printed in the annual reports, in concurrence.

CHARLES S. ROBERTSON, *Clerk.*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

OF THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1898.

TRUSTEES.

JOHN B. VIALL. CHRISTOPHER E. RYMES.
J. FRANK WELLINGTON. CHARLES H. BROWN.
CHARLES W. SAWYER. CHARLES A. WEST.
CHARLES S. LINCOLN. EDWARD C. BOOTH, M. D.
GEORGE W. PERKINS.

OFFICERS.

CHARLES S. LINCOLN *President.*
SAM WALTER FOSS *Secretary.*

COMMITTEES.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS.—Rymes, Viall and Brown.
ADMINISTRATION.— Wellington, Sawyer and Perkins.
BOOKS AND CATALOGUES.— Lincoln, *ex officio*, Rymes, Viall, Brown, West and Booth.
FINANCE.— Sawyer, Wellington and Perkins.

LIBRARIAN.

SAM WALTER FOSS.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN.

ADELE SMITH.

CATALOGUER.

F. MABEL NORCROSS.

ASSISTANTS.

ANNA E. STONE. MABEL E. BUNKER.
MARY J. WARREN. MARY S. WOODMAN.
ESTHER M. MAYHEW. F. EDWARD KAULA.
AUBREY A. HILLS.

JANITOR.

CHARLES A. SOUTHWICK.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR 1898.

CREDIT.

Appropriation	$7,500.00
Dog Tax	2,268.86
Fines	472.17
Catalogues	31.00
Books sold	12.76
Cash found in safe	2.45
A. Storrs & Bement (overpaid bill)	3.00
	$10,290.24

DEBIT.

Balance from 1897	$ 139.01	
Books and periodicals	2,881.18	
Binding	854.95	
Cards	21.75	
Printing	211.60	
Stationery	47.03	
Salaries	4,608.35	
Agencies	151.40	
Furniture	160.34	
Repairs	135.93	
Express	201.53	
Electric light	260.37	
Gas	30.10	
Water	26.00	
Fuel	183.78	
Postage	15.00	
Telephone	58.52	
Labor	39.75	
Insurance	191.25	
Supplies	24.55	
Disbursements	40.45	
Balance carried to 1899	7.40	
		$10,290.24

CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

December 27, 1898.

To the Honorable, the City Council:—

Gentlemen: — The annual report of the Trustees of the Public Library is herewith respectfully submitted.

The last year has been an eventful year in the history of the library. On March 7th, Mr. John S. Hayes, librarian and secretary of the Board of Trustees for five years, suddenly died in the midst of a career of usefulness to the community, and of honor to himself. The trustees have elsewhere expressed their sorrow at his early death, in formal memorial, but cannot refrain from again bearing testimony; as Trustees, to the great value of his services to the library, and as friends, to the high esteem in which he was held by all who knew him. By his intelligence, energy and enthusiasm the library underwent a new birth, and took her rightful place in the newly-awakened movement of the library as an educational force.

During his term of service the great work of classifying the volumes of the library, by subjects and on an approved decimal system, was carried out and a finding-list prepared. Selected collections of French and German works, and books for the blind were added. Important relations were established with the public schools, and a monthly bulletin was begun, designed to bring readers more in touch with the resources of the library and facilitate a more intelligent use of its collections— these changes tending directly to a largely increased use of the institution, and in his own words "to the laying of a foundation for greater usefulness in the future."

Thus, in the midst of a realization of results accomplished, and in the sanguine hope of greater achievements in the future, the earnest and successful educator in two co-ordinate

and related fields, the good citizen and the loyal friend passed from his earthly work.

In looking for a successor who should appreciate the true position of the Library of To-day, as an educational factor in the community, and vigorously take up and carry on the work begun by Mr. Hayes, the Trustees sought a man who, besides being a person of ideas, energy, self-confidence, good business habits, and a broad, general education, should possess a critical taste and a deep and abiding love of literature and a large acquaintance with it, united with an enthusiasm and tact in leading others to a knowledge of its benefits and enjoyments. Familiarity with the technical work of a library, though, was deemed not essential, and a preference was given to a resident of Somerville.

The first choice of the Trustees was Mr. James F. Beard, cashier of the Somerville National Bank. Mr. Beard, a graduate of Dartmouth College, had long been a valued member of the School Committee, had always been identified with the best interests of the city, and was largely and favorably known among the citizens. Mr. Beard accepted the position only to recall his acceptance a few days later, as his services were found by the bank directors to be indispensable to the bank. The subsequent choice fell upon Mr. Sam Walter Foss, the poet, a resident of this city for the last ten years; and the Trustees believe themselves fortunate in securing a person so nearly conforming to the standard set. Mr. Foss was elected on May 16th, and in his annual report has given ample evidence of his comprehension of the needs of the library and the part it should play as an educational force in the community.

Miss Clara L. Bidwell, the capable assistant librarian, had sent in her resignation before Mr. Hayes's death, but kindly consented, at personal inconvenience, to continue her services till a new librarian was elected. In April her place was taken by Miss Adele Smith, a competent person who had received a theoretical and practical training at the Amherst Library School, and had had six months experience in this library. The efficient cataloguer, Miss Norcross, and the corps of assistants have continued in the service of the library acceptably and without change.

Those who were familiar with the work of a public library twenty-six years ago, when this library was established, will be struck with the difference in the scope and magnitude of the work now demanded of such an institution.

During the last twenty years the public library of the country has been evolving itself from a passive and conservative institution to an active and radical means of education. Formerly the object of a library was chiefly to hold a collection of books, whose jealous custodian was the librarian. Books there were for those who wished to consult them, but it was a matter of indifference whether they were consulted or not. The library of the present day, however, has been gradually taking on a new function. It not only aims more widely to unfold its treasures and to open the easiest possible road for inquiry and investigation regarding them, but apprehends that it fails to fulfil its highest mission, unless it actively goes out and offers in various ways its benefits to the people. This activity, now recognized as vital to the proper success of a public library, is incidental to the times and is analogous to that now prevailing in the commercial world. Formerly, the country merchant came to the city to buy; now, while sitting in his office he is overrun with travellers bringing their samples, and crying the superior merits of their goods. Formerly the householder sought the butcher and the grocer, and carried home his supplies himself; now, he is visited every morning, and orders are solicited and goods promptly and gratuitously delivered. Similarly, all articles of trade are skilfully brought before the public attention by samples or descriptions, and pictures, through the mails, or by liberal advertisements in the magazines and daily papers. In this great modern American movement the publishers have not lagged behind, so that multitudes of books, good, bad and indifferent, have been crowded upon us, sent out into the world with indiscriminate notices of praise. In this embarrassment of intellectual material, when books can be borrowed for the asking or bought for a song, when to read the daily papers and the insignificant fraction of the constantly appearing magazines is no light task, we become cloyed and indifferent to our advantages in the surfeit about

us. We are strongly tempted to read what first comes to hand, or what is most artfully foisted upon us, rather than to exert ourselves to make a judicious selection; indeed, it requires no little knowledge, planning and resolution to make a fair use of our opportunities.

If this perplexity exists in the case of the adult, how much greater must it be in the young who are at the threshold of their education and experience! Indeed, it is a matter of fact that children, when left to themselves, generally do not make a wise selection in their reading. The worthless and the bad being more prominently brought before the attention, tends to keep out the good. To meet this perplexity in the child, the modern library comes forward with its good offices, both by its own guidance and helpfulness in the institution itself and in co-operation with the schools. It establishes a children's department in the library building, where children can be entertained with suitable good reading, and it sends specially selected libraries to the schools. The children's room is made as attractive as possible, and its frequenters are made to feel that they have an ownership in the room, and that it is to some extent under their protection. Here they may consult the best juvenile magazines and take down from the shelves and examine such books as they please. In the second branch of children's work the books of the special libraries are given out by the teachers to the pupils to carry home, or are lent to be read during school hours, as a reward of good behavior, or of proficiency in school work. These school libraries naturally help to form the taste of the pupil, and carry good books into many families which have previously had no relations with the library. These methods of children's work will do much to cultivate the habit of good reading among the young, which is such an important part of an education, and cannot fail in time to bear fruit in a better citizenship.

To return to the subject of the methods employed by the library to make its collection more accessible to the public:—the principal means to this end is a comprehensive, up-to-date card-catalogue. Such a catalogue, which is a very important part of a library's equipment, should embrace not only a list of all the books contained in the library, both by subjects

and by authors, but also a ready reference to topics incidentally treated in the various books to which the titles themselves give no cue. Other methods are the issuing of monthly bulletins, the posting of special lists on topics of general or local interest, and by the use of the local papers.

Allied to the subject of affording better facilities to the reader and student is the general recognition that the resources of the library should be accessible to the public for the greatest possible number of hours in the week. How far the Somerville library has advanced in the past of the Library of To-day, as outlined above, will be seen by reference to the Librarian's report, which is appended to this report, and made a part of it. The various recommendations herein presented have been carefully considered by the trustees and have received their endorsement.

It will be our province only to touch upon and emphasize a few of the points brought out in the Librarian's report.

It may be said at the beginning that the library needs some expenditure to develop certain departments, either in which was an original deficiency or where rapid modern progress has left the department behind the times.

The want of a suitable catalogue has long been felt and has now become an urgent need. It has, indeed, been slowly progressing during the last year as the leisure of the cataloguer and the assistants from routine duties has permitted, but it should be rapidly pushed forward and finished during the coming year. This can be done only by a considerable outlay for cases and cards and by the hire of an additional assistant.

It will be seen that the library is working harmoniously and successfully with the schools. To the high schools, books are very freely supplied for reference and collateral reading. To the various rooms of the grammar schools, special libraries are sent as hitherto. This work is suffering, however, for the want of sufficient duplicates, that the schools in all sections of the city may be equally served. The children's room has been highly successful since its recent opening, but this department requires an immediate outlay to ensure its proper usefulness.

The trustees have not yet been able to throw open the doors of the library for so many hours of the week as they think

desirable. It seems unjust to the great body of the people that they should be debarred from a use of the library at almost the only times in which they have the opportunities to use it. With the means at command, however, it has not been practicable to increase the evening opening beyond the present two evenings in the week; but it was found that very little additional expense would suffice to open the reading and reference room on Sunday afternoons. Consequently, this innovation was made in November.

In the matter of Sunday opening, the trustees believe that no arguments are necessary in justification of their action. The propriety of such a step has been recognized in this country by the general opening of the public libraries in the larger cities, and in England, by the formal opening by Parliament in 1896, of the six great libraries and museums of London, on that day. As showing the trend of thought which brought about this great innovation in England, we quote from the words of the Lord Bishop of Manchester, and of Lord Hobhouse. The former says: "I firmly believe that the cause of what is best and highest in our national life, both secular and religious, will be promoted, not hindered by our encouraging the use of public libraries and the study of masterpieces of art and the treasures of archæology and science, on Sunday afternoon, by those who, as a matter of fact, are precluded on week days from availing themselves of such opportunities."

Lord Hobhouse expresses the conviction that it makes "the use of Sunday more beneficial and more adapted to the varieties of human character and conditions . . . not adding anything appreciable to the labor which is necessary under any system to keep the world going; not detracting from public worship, yet providing more varied mode of enjoyment, whether intellectual, or æsthetic, or muscular, to give refreshment to people differing in temperament or in condition of life."

The greatly increased use of the library in all departments, the utter inadequacy of the delivery-room, long painfully apparent to the public — a room which must soon be further encroached upon by the case of the card-catalogue — the overflowing of the children's room, and the many uses to which the

cataloguer's room has been put, have compelled the trustees to look about for necessary increased accommodations. They believe that the time has come when the library can no longer perform its proper duty to the public as an educational institution, unless its quarters are enlarged. All available space above ground is fully utilized. A large room in the basement is already in use as a storeroom, and a part of the boiler-room must ultimately be taken for the same purpose. It is believed that any serious attempt to establish a children's room in the basement, which has been in contemplation, requiring as it would important changes in the distribution of the steam-pipes, the building of a suitable entrance and the underground enlargement of all the windows, would involve an expense of several thousands of dollars, and when finished would prove to be, on the ground of health alone, an unsuitable place for children to resort to.

Therefore, after careful consideration, the trustees feel it to be their duty to recommend to your Honorable Board and to ask for an addition to the library building, as the only satisfactory way out of the difficulty, and the cheapest in the end. In the hope that this relief might be facilitated, they have provided themselves with a plan and general outline of what seems to them required. These will be presented under another communication.

If the Somerville Library is expected to do the work given a library to do to-day, the Trustees do not see how this work is to be done without larger space to do it in and greater means to do it with.

Respectfully submitted for the Board of Trustees,

CHARLES S. LINCOLN, *President.*

December 31, 1898.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:—

I herewith submit the Librarian's twenty-sixth annual report.

Assuming the duties of the position last May as the successor of one who had made a place for himself among the most efficient librarians of the day, the responsibilities of the untried position were duly realized, and the desire to keep the library up to our standards of the past and our hopes for the future were naturally very strong. In the pursuance of this aim a number of changes have been inaugurated.

A CHILDREN'S ROOM.

The most important work of a public library is to reach the young and influence them beneficially. If this is not done, all our advanced appliances, all our highly organized systems are simply noisy machines, grinding out but little product. The youth of Somerville, both directly and through the schools, have come into very close relations to the library, and in this way its influence for good has been incalculable. This influence has been greatly enhanced the present year by the opening of a special children's room.

The old reading-room on the first floor has been remodelled, its sides have been lined with shelves which have been filled with the best juvenile books the library affords. The selection of these books have been made with great care. No books of known worthlessness can find admittance upon these shelves. Books entertaining without sensationalism, instructive without pedantry, and moral without "goody-goodiness" are the ones that have found a place in our new children's

room. The best biographies, the best books of travel, the best books on nature study, the best selected juvenile fiction, the best juvenile periodicals, a good assortment of picture books for the very young, make up the collection. The books are free of access to all occupants of the room, and can be read in the room or taken out on a regular library card. The success of the room has been great, even to embarrassment. Since its opening the utter inadequacy of the library to accommodate its patrons has once more been strikingly emphasized. After school hours on school days, and on Saturdays and Sundays, the room is sometimes suffocatingly crowded. The children of the city appreciate such a room as this so thoroughly that it is a matter of great regret that we are not able at present to supply them with a room sufficiently spacious for their comfortable enjoyment.

The books placed upon the shelves of this new children's room are almost exclusively duplicates. Unless we have more than one copy of a book we have allowed it to remain upon the shelves of the stack room, and we have not deemed it right to rob the other children of the city of its reading for the sake of giving it to the children who visit the children's room. Consequently the number of books in the children's room is not as large as might be desired. I recommend that two hundred and fifty dollars be used during the coming year for the purchase of new books for this room.

A NEW READING ROOM.

The changing of the old reading room into a children's room necessitated the changing of the study and reference room upstairs into a general reading room. This room is the largest and most sightly room in the building, and the public has been greatly appreciative of the more commodious accommodations it furnishes. This is attested by the greatly increased numbers that frequent it. Since this room has been made into a general reading room its average daily attendance has been seventy-six. Before the change the attendance was twelve. So this room, although twice the capacity of the old reading room, is at times seriously overcrowded. This congestion has been so

great at seasons that the exclusion of children from the room has been contemplated. But such a step should not be taken without deliberation. A child who is really interested in the books and periodicals in this room should not be debarred from the privilege of using them. To do so would be to stunt the development of a growing mind. A boy who desires to read the literature of a man should no longer be treated like a child.

A ROOM FOR QUIET STUDY.

The public documents, which were formerly stored in the little room over the hallway, have been removed to a room that has been fitted up for them in the east wing of the basement. Since the removal of the documents the room has been used as a room for quiet study by those desirous of making special investigations. When the room is not occupied it can be obtained by any one for this purpose by applying to the attendant in the reading room. This room should be supplied with a better table.

By these recent changes the rooms in the second story of the library are used to a greatly increased extent; and the time may come when the second floor will be utilized to something like the extent of the first floor. In our present overcrowded condition, it is desirable that the people should be distributed as evenly as practicable throughout the building.

A CARD CATALOGUE.

The need of another catalogue has been felt for some time. Our present finding-list was published in 1895, when the number of books in the library was less than thirty thousand. The number has now increased to over forty-four thousand, and thus nearly fifteen thousand books now in the library are not mentioned in any printed catalogue, or in any single catalogue of any kind. Early in the summer it was voted by your Board to prepare a new complete card catalogue, with each book mentioned under its author, under its title and under its subject, with all the cross references necessary to make it easily accessible to the average reader. The work of preparing this catalogue progresses slowly, and as it must be done by the cataloguer and

her assistants in addition to the regular work of her department, much time must necessarily elapse before the work is completed. The need of such a catalogue is so apparent and urgent, the securing of some extra help while the making of the catalogue is in progress seems to me desirable.

CIRCULATION.

During the past year the number of volumes taken out has been 212,817. Of these, 18,874 were distributed through the West Somerville agency, 8,986 through the agency at East Somerville, and through the South Somerville agency, 4,545. The number of books distributed through the grammar schools has been 10,755. The aggregate increase of the library's circulation during the year has been 19,326.

GIFTS.

The Library has received the following donations of books during the year:

LIST OF DONATIONS, 1898.

	Vol.	Pamph.	Period.
Adams, Mrs. M. L.	1		
American Irish Society	1	1	
Ashton, W. H.		1	
Austin, A. O.	1		
Barnes, W. A.		1	
Benton, J. B.		1	
Berry, Charles W.	16		
Boston, City of	6		
Boston Book Co.			5
Boston Transit Commission	1		
Cambridge, City of	1		
Chandler, L. B.	1		
Chelsea, City of	1		
Christian Register			52
Christian Science Journal			12
Christian Science Weekly			12
Amounts carried forward	29	4	81

LIST OF DONATIONS. — *Continued.*

	Vol.	Pamph.	Period.
Amounts brought forward	29	4	81
Codding, W. M.	1		
Comey, Mrs. E. L.	5		
Cook's Excursionist			6
Crain, C. H.	2		
Creighton, Mrs. H. R.		1	
Cummings, S. S.	1		
Daughters of Maine Club, Somerville		4	
Davis, W. A.	1		
Detroit, City of		1	
Dodge, Martin	2		
Dolbear, A. E.	1		
Eliot (Me.) Historical Society	1		
Elliot, Charles D.	1	1	
Elliot, Mary E.	1		
Food, Home and Garden			8
Foss, Mollie	6		
Foss, Sam Walter	3		26
Foss, Saxton C.	4		
Goldsmith, B. W.	7		
Goss, George H.	2		
Green, S. A.		1	
Hapgood, Warren	1		
Hayes, John S.	114		
Hayes, Mrs. John S.		1	
Hichborn, William	1		
Holt, Harry	1		
Home Market Bulletin			12
Howe Memorial Press	13		
Johnson, J. B.		1	
Lake Mohonk Arbitration Conference		1	
Land of Sunshine, Los Angeles, Cal.			12
League of American Wheelmen			52
Lee & Shepard	1	3	
Libbey Glass Co.	1		
Lincoln, Charles S.	2	1	
Literary News			12
Loring, G. F.	2		
Amounts carried forward	203	19	209

LIST OF DONATIONS. — *Continued.*

	Vol.	Pamph.	Period.
Amounts brought forward . . .	203	19	209
McGlenan, E. W.	1		
Manifesto			12
Massachusetts, State of	48		
Massachusetts Prison Association . .		1	
Massachusetts Public Library Commissioners		1	
Meadville (Pa.) Theological School . .		1	
Medical Record			1
Minneapolis (Minn.), City of . . .	1		
Morse, Alice W.	4		
Neily, S. T.	1		
New England Anti-Vivisection Society .			12
New York, State of	3		
New Philosophy			7
Nicolls, W. J.		1	
Olmstead, D. H.	1		
Our Outlook			24
Palmer, C. F.	1		
Parsons, Frank	1		
Parsons, J. R.	1		
People			52
Perkins, G. W.	2		
Perry Mason Co.		1	
Plummer, E. M.		1	
Public Libraries: —			
Allegheny, Pa.		1	
Amesbury			1
Baltimore, Md., Enoch Pratt Library .		1	
Bangor, Me.		1	
Boston		1	12
Brookline		1	5
Brooklyn, N. Y.		1	
Brooklyn, N. Y., Pratt Institute . .		1	
Burlington, Vt.		1	
Cambridge		1	10
Chelsea		1	
Cincinnati, O.		1	
Amounts carried forward . . .	267	36	345

LIST OF DONATIONS. — *Continued.*

	Vol.	Pamph.	Period.
Amounts brought forward . . .	267	36	345
Public Libraries (*Continued*) : —			
Clinton		1	
Concord		1	
Council Bluffs, Ia.		1	
Dedham		1	
Detroit, Mich.		1	
Dover, N. H.		1	
Everett		1	
Fall River		1	
Fitchburg		1	6
Hartford, Conn.		1	5
Jersey City, N. J.		1	2
Lancaster		1	
Lawrence		1	4
Leeds, England		1	
Leicester		1	
Littleton, Reuben Hoar Library . .		1	
London, Eng., Clerkenwell Library .		1	
Lowell			3
Lynn		1	3
Malden		1	
Manchester, N. H.		1	
Medford		1	
Melrose		1	
Milwaukee, Wis.			2
Minneapolis, Minn.		1	
Natick		1	
New Bedford		1	8
New Haven, Conn.		2	12
New London, Conn.			4
New York, N. Y.			12
Newark, N. J.		1	10
Newton		1	
North Adams		1	
Northampton		1	
Norwich, Conn., Otis Library . .		1	8
Paterson, N. J.		1	6
Amounts carried forward . . .	267	69	430

LIST OF DONATIONS. — *Continued.*

	Vol.	Pamph.	Period.
Amounts brought forward . . .	267	69	430
Public Libraries (*Concluded*) : —			
Peabody		1	
Peoria, Ill.		1	
Philadelphia, Pa.		2	
Pittsburgh, Pa., Carnegie Library .		1	
Pittsfield		1	1
Portland, Me.		1	
Providence, R. I.		1	12
Providence Athenæum Library . .			8
Quincy, Thomas Crane Library . .	1	1	
St. Louis, Mo.		1	
St. Louis Mercantile Library . .		1	
Salem		2	10
San Francisco, Cal.		1	10
Scranton, Pa.		1	2
Springfield		1	10
Syracuse, N. Y.		1	
Taunton		1	
Waltham		1	9
Winthrop		1	
Woburn		1	
Quinn, J. C.	1		
Radiator, Somerville High School . .			10
Raymond & Whitcomb, Publishers . .		2	
Reform Club Committee	1		
Rock, Lulie M.	3		
Sanborn, Helen J.	1		
Schurman, Pres. Cornell University . .	1		
Scot's Charitable Society	1		
Scott, Rev. W.		8	
Simms, Joseph	1		
Somerville, City of	2		
Somerville Historical Society . . .		4	
Somerville Journal			104
Towle Manufacturing Co.	1		
Tuftonian, Tufts College			5
Amounts carried forward . . .	280	104	611

LIST OF DONATIONS. — *Concluded.*

	Vol.	Pamph.	Period.
Amounts brought forward . . .	280	104	611
Tufts Weekly, Tufts College . . .			36
Turner, Walter F.	1		
United States	27		82
Walker, Col. E.	1		
Washington News Letter			4
West, C. A.	1		
West & Jenny			5
Whitaker, J. E.	1		
Willis, C. W.	2		
Woman's Journal			52
Wood, Mrs. A. H.	1		
Woodman, Mary S.	1		
Totals	315	104	790

As will be seen by the above table, the library has received gifts of books during the past year of considerable value. People are growing more into the habit of giving books to their public libraries, although the habit is not as widespread as it might easily be. There are thousands of books in private libraries that after the first reading are never read again. They may be intrinsically valuable, but they are practically useless. They are lumber, waste, superfluous, sealed as securely as the books mentioned in the Apocalypse. These books might do a world of good if they were in a public library where the people could read them. The public library should by no means supersede private collections, but every owner of a private collection, after he has used a book and it has served its purpose, can do nothing better than to present it to a public library, that the same purpose may be served repeatedly with other people. It is a tremendous waste of intellect and a woful misapplication of brain when a book capable of teaching, delighting and inspiring thousands is simply given one careless reading by one careless man. If all the owners of books in

every community, instead of hoarding their volumes after they are once through with them, should present them to their public libraries, the sum of human intelligence in those communities would be appreciably increased. If such a practice should become common in Somerville, it would not take many years for such a collection of books to be gathered together as could not be easily matched in other communities of equal size. It is true that in some cases a vast number of duplicates would be donated ; but these duplicates could easily be exchanged for other books, and thus prove real accessions to the library. The best book in the world is no good in the world, if nobody in the world reads it. The best disposition that can be made of such a book is to put it in the public library, where the largest possible number of people can obtain it.

A good library is justified in expecting other gifts, also. There are very few public libraries that are supported exclusively by the appropriation of the towns or cities in which they are situated. Many of them have, indeed, been built by private gift, and afterwards generously endowed by private bequests. The Somerville Public Library has not been fortunate in this respect. The Pitman fund of one thousand dollars is the only considerable money gift it has ever received. It is well for our philanthropic people to know that there are many lines, some of which are outlined in this report, along which the library could develop if the necessary means were at its disposal. In fact the library has now reached a point in which its onward course of almost unparalleled development must be retarded unless it is put in possession of largely increased means. It should be our aim to place and keep the library in the front file of the progressive institutions of its kind. Our sanguine hopes that means to this end will be furnished is based upon the public spirit of our citizens. It is true local patriotism for a public library to be somewhat audacious in soliciting gifts, and he who responds to the solicitation is more patriotic than the solicitor in the proportion that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

LIBRARY AGENCIES.

During the present month a new library agency has been established at the drug store of Mr. Herbert E. Bowman at

Magoun square. Our other three agencies are doing a steadily increasing work, and it is anticipated that this new agency will furnish convenient library facilities to a large number of people in the vicinity. There is still room for one or more agencies which could be established in localities so that they would not interfere with the work of the agencies already established. The librarian, in the time of my predecessor, was given authority to establish an agency on the southern side of the Fitchburg Railroad, but no place entirely satisfactory, on the score of location and desirability, has yet been found for this purpose.

SUNDAY OPENING.

Since early in November the two reading rooms of the library have been open to the public on Sundays from 3 to 7 P. M. That this new privilege has been greatly appreciated has been evidenced by the great number of visitors to the library during those hours. At times both rooms have been filled considerably beyond their comfortable capacity.

EVENING OPENING.

In opening the library on Sundays, it seems to me we have done an excellent but incomplete work. No library as large as our own, in a city as large as Somerville, should be closed during any evening of the week. A public library should be opened to the public when the public wants it opened; and of course there are no other hours of the twenty-four when a great proportion of our citizens can find an opportunity to visit the library at all. To keep the public library closed at the very hours when the public most wishes it open is not according that respect to public opinion demanded in a democratic community, and is defeating the very aim for which a public library is instituted. It is shutting the public from the books it has paid for, during the hours it most desires access to them. People would doubtless be less inconvenienced to have the library closed forenoons than to have it closed evenings. But a library in a city of nearly sixty thousand inhabitants should be opened at least from nine in the morning until nine

at night. While I earnestly recommend evening opening, I feel strongly that it should not be attempted with our present force. None of the attendants should be required to work during the entire day and the entire evening, too. A couple of extra attendants should be hired for evening service. This could be done without a largely increased expense.

THE LIBRARY AND THE SCHOOLS.

There is a very close co-operation between the library and the schools, and many of the teachers are enthusiastic in their appreciation of the good the library has done their pupils. During the past year we have sent to the schools 10,755 volumes to be taken out by the pupils by card, and 13,265 to be kept in the schools as school libraries. These school libraries, which have usually consisted of twenty-five books to a room, are as a rule selected by the teachers themselves, who naturally choose the books they think most suitable to the ages and requirements of their scholars. I am sorry to say that our facilities for supplying these requests of the teachers are inadequate. The various teachers naturally ask to a great extent for the same books. Consequently the first applicants are approximately supplied with the books they ask for and the later applicants, in some instances, have not been able to obtain a single volume they requested. These latter applicants, consequently, are not to be blamed for thinking that our system of giving out school libraries is something of a farce. We now know to a considerable degree of exactness just what books are liable to be called for: and these books should be purchased by the library in sufficient numbers to supply the legitimate demand. At least two hundred and fifty dollars should be expended in this way at once, and at least one hundred dollars a year should be expended regularly for this purpose.

BULLETINS.

Eleven bulletins have been issued the present year, the September and October numbers being brought out as a single issue. A new plan has been adopted in the bulletin, of giving short reviews of the most notable books purchased during the

month. No book receives such a notice unless it is regarded as a real contribution to human thought. In this way the attention of the public is called to the books of real excellence, and the best of our current literary product receives a wider reading. It is hoped to make these little reviews even more a feature of our monthly bulletins during the coming year.

MUSIC.

The library already contains a fair number of books about music and musicians, but of music itself it has no supply whatever. This is a lack that should be filled, and a musical department should be started. If such a department existed in the library, I believe it would be patronized to as large an extent as any other division of the library, with the exception of the fiction division. A thoroughly equipped musical department would cost a considerable amount of money; but it should be a matter of gradual growth, as has been all the other divisions of the library. For the sum of two hundred dollars a good musical nucleus could be established, which by gradual accretions would develop into a symmetrical musical outfit. For the benefit of the large number of music-lovers in Somerville, I trust that the means may be given us to start such a department early in the coming year.

STATISTICS.

CIRCULATION.

Total number of books delivered		212,817
Through agency at West Somerville . .	18,874	
" " " East Somerville . .	8,986	
" " " Somerville ave. . .	4,545	
" grammar schools	10,755	
Special libraries, including high schools .	13,265	

BOOKS WITHDRAWN.

Number of books worn out	365
" " " lost by general readers .	17
" " " lost in schools . . .	10
Amount carried forward . . .	392

Amount brought forward	392	
Number of books burned by order of Board of Health, etc.	5	
Total number withdrawn	397	
Total number of books withdrawn to January, 1898 .		3,194
" " " " " " January, 1899 .		397
Total		3,591

BOOKS ADDED.

Accession number, January 1, 1898		40,902
" " January 1, 1899		44,307
Total number of books added during 1898 . . .		3,405
New books to the library	2,490	
Duplicates in the library	915	
Total number withdrawn		3,591
Total number of books in the library		40,822

BINDING.

Volumes rebound	1,801	
Periodicals	202	
Paper-covered books	108	
Pamphlets	76	
Total for year 1898		2,187

ADDITIONAL ROOM.

The time has arrived when the need of increased room in the library has become very urgent. Our work in many of our departments is hampered exceedingly, simply for the lack of adequate space in which to perform it. We have no accommodation whatever for a packing department, and our boxes for the schools and for our agencies, our special libraries, and all our books sent to and received from the bindery, we are obliged to pack and unpack very largely in the cataloguer's room, which also, in addition to its legitimate purpose, serves the double use of an Art room and a room for our local Somerville books. As a matter of fact, the art collection is very seldom accessible to the public, and its books remain on our shelves almost absolutely unused. The public is practically prohibited

from access to them. As a matter of simple justice, this state of affairs should be remedied.

Perhaps the most serious problem with which the library has to grapple is the utterly inadequate size of its delivery room. This is, at times, cruelly overcrowded. The congestion is so great that visitors have serious difficulty in crowding forward to the delivery desk to return their old books or receive their new ones. The crowd has been so dense at times as to result in actual stoppage of all the library machinery. The books have been ready to deliver to the card-holders, their names have been called, but no one, on account of the crowd, has been able to come forward and receive his books. In one instance, nothing could be done until some one penetrated the crowd from the rear, and standing before the delivery desk, received the books and handed them out over the heads of the people. This is a condition of affairs that, of course, should not be allowed to continue.

I am persuaded that the normal growth of the library is being seriously checked by this condition of affairs. Many people have emphatically expressed their reluctance to come to the library at all on account of the crowd, the delay, and the vexation to which they are subjected. In view of all this, it seems to me that an addition of considerable size should be made to the library. This addition should make possible a greatly enlarged delivery room, a good packing room, a much larger children's room, an art room, an enlarged "Americana" room, several small rooms for private study, another stack room as large as our present one, and a moderate-sized public hall, to be used for lectures on educational subjects, to be given not only under the auspices of the library, but by the various local literary and educational clubs to whom the trustees may see fit to grant such privileges. The need of these increased facilities is so apparent, and so necessary to the progressive development of the library, that we cannot too urgently ask for a special appropriation, sufficient to make the accommodations needed.

SYMMETRICAL DEVELOPMENT.

During the past few months a considerable attempt has been made toward a symmetrical development of the library. A

librarian should be especially cautious in allowing his own personal tastes to influence him unduly in the purchase of books. And it is very doubtful if any one's taste is catholic and comprehensive enough to render him competent to select the books for a general public library. Competent specialists in the various departments of human thought should be called in to assist him. This policy has been adopted during the past few months, and will be even more thoroughly carried out in the future. Great credit is due, among others, for important advice in their respective lines of research, to Prof. A. E. Dolbear and to Prof. G. T. Harmon of Tufts College. The library owes a great debt to many of the clergymen of the city, most of whom have shown the best of good will towards the library, and have offered it many valuable suggestions. The teachers of the city, coming as they do in direct contact with youthful minds, are better qualified to know the needs of these minds than any other class of people; and it is no exaggeration to say that the services of the teachers have been invaluable.

In our desire to keep the library up to a well-rounded symmetry, it must not be forgotten that our efforts must be continuous. The most symmetrical library in the world will not stay symmetrical for a period of twelve months. Truth grows old more rapidly than it once did; or, rather, "Time makes ancient truth uncouth" more quickly than in previous generations. Most books written on electricity ten years ago are made worthless by subsequent discoveries. Books on geology, on chemistry, on physics, on political economy or sociology, which were written ten years ago, are not much more accurate for the users of to-day than a calendar, an almanac, or a diary written for ten years ago. There has been a quickening of human thought, even during the lifetime of men still young, such as the history of the race has never known before. Professor Wallace holds that there has been greater progress during the present century than during all the centuries that have preceded it. So there has perhaps been as great progress during the past decade as during the nine previous decades of the century. If this is so, a book ten years old along any line of investigation is antiquated and largely obsolete. Such books

are valuable historically, as they show the views held by men at the time they were written; but if we give them out with the implied inference that they express absolute truth, we are guilty of the propagation of outworn errors. Consequently, I believe a much larger sum of money than has hitherto been spent for such a purpose should be expended each year in buying books that embody the very latest results of modern study. When thought travels by express we should not try to keep abreast of it by stage. It is the business of a public library to keep abreast of it; and it ought to spare no expense in purchasing the right conveyance to do so.

In our efforts toward a symmetrical development of the library, I do not believe we should confine our endeavors exclusively to the accumulation of books. In towns where there are no museums the library should be the natural receptacle for the accumulation of all that is illustrative of art, science and research of all kinds, especially of such collections as possess a local interest. If there is no observatory in town, no local benefactor with astronomical tastes should be deterred from presenting his city a telescope. The library, in the absence of other institutions, is the guardian of all such gifts. It does not exceed its mission if it gathers within its walls all that is educative in all departments of human thought; and it is a matter of little moment whether that thought is embodied in a book, a statue, a picture, a reconstructed fossil, a model of a locomotive, an electric battery, or a scientific chart.

BUSINESS PRINCIPLES AS APPLIED TO THE LIBRARY.

If I may be pardoned a somewhat radical suggestion, but one in which I thoroughly believe, I would recommend that the library should make special direct efforts to increase the volume of its business just as all successful business houses do. The time has long since passed by when any private business can even exist if it simply establishes itself and waits for the people to come to it. The church, without a missionary spirit, is as tepid as the old church of Laodicea. The public schools are missionary to the extent that they are compulsory. The

public library is coming more and more to be an adjunct of the public schools, and while I would not, of course, advocate the making of the use of the library compulsory, I would suggest that its privileges be respectfully offered to every family in the city. The library should not wait complacently for the people to come to it: it should go to the people. The way to reach men is to go where they are. It is not enough for us to say, "The doors of the library are open, all who will can come." All who WILL NOT are the ones we most desire. The people who are fond of books will come, and we gladly welcome them. But a judicious fisher of men does not angle for the fish that are already caught. It is the people who are not fond of books that we desire to reach. The public library has done a great work, but it has only faintly begun, as yet, to realize the magnitude of its mission. It should not rest satisfied until it has made the reading of books as general as the reading of newspapers. To this end I believe that every family in Somerville should be offered a library card. If the library is a good thing, and we most potently believe it is, why should we not offer this good thing to men and women who are too careless to learn this truth for themselves. If we should offer a card to every family in Somerville and to every member of every family that, according to our rules, are now entitled to cards, it would be the dawning of a new intellectual day to thousands in this community. If the undertaking is of too great a magnitude to be carried into immediate effect, I would like to see it tried as an experiment in some single precinct of the city. Let a door-to-door canvass be made in some such precinct, and our regular application blanks be left with all eligible persons who desire them. A trial of this method could thus be made in a comparatively small section, which would give us data to enable us to determine concerning the practicability for a larger application. I earnestly recommend this experimental trial.

THE LIBRARY AS AN INSPIRATIONAL FORCE.

Perhaps sufficient attention is paid to making the library a highly organized and smoothly working machine. It should be, of course, a machine, and the more delicately adjusted its parts

may be, the better. But a machine does not exist simply for the sake of running smoothly. If it runs smoothly and gives out no product, it is simply a mechanical sarcasm. A library has no especial reason for self felicitation because it gives out a large number of books. It may give out a very large number of books, and still do more harm than good. The great question is: Is it grinding out a product of enlightened citizenship? Is it transforming the community into intellectual, thoughtful, better-equipped, more roundly developed men and women? If it is not, its activities are useless contortions, and the tax-payers have a right to protest against its further existence. If it does not do all this, how shall we abide the thunder of their righteous wrath? The library probably cannot make all its visitors appreciative of the great master minds and the lords of thought whose works are on its shelves. But if it does not, in the aggregate, raise the standard of literary taste in the community; if it does not help to train up a generation of lovers of good books; in short, if it does not make men wiser and better, then the noise of its complicated machinery is an ironic laugh, far from musical for us to hear. Every effort has been made during the past year to make the library an uplifting and an inspirational agency. We have tried to get into the hearts of the young through the pathway of human sympathy. We have tried to create an atmosphere of welcome. The tomb-like stillness and death-like hush that sometimes prevail in libraries have not been encouraged. The young people and all others whom we could help have been encouraged in every way to seek personal interviews with the librarian and all other members of the staff; and suggestions along the lines of each one's aptitudes have been offered to the extent of our limitations. By personal interviews we have tried to draw out the dawning perceptions of the young and help them to help themselves in the building up of a well-rounded intellectual equipment. We trust that, as a result of our sowing, a sturdier crop of mental and moral men will grow upon these hillsides.

CONCLUSION.

It would not be right to close this report without testifying to the faithfulness and cheerfulness with which all the members

of the library staff have performed their duties. Their work is done at times under many vexations and annoyances, but it is always done with patience; and no complaint of discourtesy on the part of a single member of the staff has ever been brought to my notice. Their work has been done with thoroughness; and what is more important, if possible, with graciousness and a real love for the work itself.

For the very generous co-operation of your Board, for your willingness to grant all powers within your gift toward the furtherance of the progress and efficiency of the library, I cannot be too grateful.

Respectfully submitted,

SAM WALTER FOSS,

Librarian.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 56730
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1900.

27th Annual Report

of the

Public Library

of the

City of Somerville

Massachusetts

1899



TWENTY-SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE

MASSACHUSETTS

FOR THE YEAR 1899

SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT

1900

PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 56750
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1900.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Board of Trustees and Officers

OF THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1899.

Trustees.

CHARLES S. LINCOLN.
CHRISTOPHER E. RYMES.
CHARLES H. BROWN.
CHARLES A. WEST.
EDWARD C. BOOTH, M. D.
GEORGE W. PERKINS.
JOHN B. VIALL.
J. FRANK WELLINGTON.
CHARLES W. SAWYER.

Officers.

CHARLES S. LINCOLN President.
SAM WALTER FOSS Secretary.

Committees.

Building and Grounds.—Rymes, Viall, and Brown.
Administration.—Wellington, Sawyer, and Perkins.
Books and Catalogues.—Lincoln, ex officio, Rymes, Viall, Brown, West, and Booth.
Finance.—Sawyer, Wellington, and Perkins.

Librarian.

SAM WALTER FOSS.

Assistant Librarian.

ADELE SMITH.

Cataloguer.

F. MABEL NORCROSS.

Assistants.

ANNA L. STONE.
MARY J. WARREN.
ESTHER M. MAYHEW.
MABEL E. BUNKER.
MARY S. WOODMAN.
EDITH B. HAYES.
FLORENCE D. HURTER.
F. EDWARD KAULA.
AUBREY A. HILLS.

Janitor.

CHARLES A. SOUTHWICK.

PUBLIC LIBRARY ACCOUNT.

Receipts and Expenditures for 1899.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1898	$7 40
Dog tax	2,052 86
Appropriation	9,000 00
Fines and catalogues	560 17
Interest on Pitman fund	107 92
	$11,728 35

DEBIT.

Books and periodicals	$3,380 10	
Binding	791 64	
Cards	62 50	
Printing	244 80	
Stationery	13 60	
Salaries	5,400 17	
Agencies	178 43	
Furniture	101 98	
Repairs	111 26	
Express	282 55	
Electric lights	412 80	
Gas	31 52	
Water	10 64	
Fuel	188 30	
Postage	51 25	
Telephone	55 57	
Labor	71 93	
Insurance	192 50	
Supplies	46 94	
Pictures	15 35	
Disbursements	84 50	
Balance carried to 1900	02	
		$11,728 35

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To the Honorable, the Mayor, and the Board of Aldermen of the City of Somerville:—

Gentlemen,—The annual report of the Trustees of the Public Library is herewith respectfully submitted.

The Library, during the last year, has continued its work on the same general lines as those of the preceding year, and, in spite of annoyances to patrons and attendants incidental to the close proximity of carpenters and masons, with an increased measure of success.

Naturally, the enlargement of the Library building is the most important and interesting topic of the present year. The appropriation for building an addition to the Library building was voted by the City Council on January 10; on April 11 the Trustees met with the Public Property Committee of the City Council and the Superintendent of Public Buildings, when plans for the projected work were examined, explained, and discussed. Early in July the excavation was finished and the cellar walls were well under way. Since then the construction has steadily progressed, till there is now a reasonable expectation that the added wing will be ready by March to receive the necessary furniture and fittings. By this addition the capacity of the Library will be doubled, and it may be incidentally remarked that the building itself already presents a more substantial and imposing appearance than before.

For an understanding of the operations of the Library for the last year, reference is made to the report of the Librarian, which is appended to the Trustees' report, and made a part of it. Here will be found in detail the statistics of the Library as to circulation, the number and condition of its books, and the nature and extent of the work done, together with recommendations aiming at a greater efficiency of the institution, which are in general accord with the policy of the Trustees.

It will be further observed that the Library has reached a greater number of readers than ever before, and this, in spite of the unavoidable annoyances of dust, noise, and encroachment on the working space of the building, and a decreased leisure of the people, owing to the general revival of business. The circulation of the Library is, at present, greater than that of any other city in the Commonwealth, except Boston, which betokens a highly satisfactory diffusion of intelligence throughout the community. Although this proportionately large use of the Public Library may be owing, in some degree, to the nearness of our city and its free accessibility in every part to a great metropolis, which

largely determines the class of our citizens and the general nature of their pursuits, it is undoubtedly, in a large measure, owing to the hearty co-operation of the Library with the schools that this circulation has grown out of all proportion to the size of the institution and the population of the city. If in half a dozen years something substantial has been effected by these methods, how much greater results may be accomplished by a more highly perfected co-operation between these two educational institutions! Special libraries of twenty-five volumes have been supplied to eighty-five schoolrooms; 132 yet remain unsupplied. It is the wish of the Trustees that practically all of these 132 rooms shall likewise receive the loan of these libraries, or, at least, have the opportunity of receiving them. It is the wish of the Trustees, by means of these libraries, to furnish teachers with plenty of good, suitable reading material, which may be placed before the pupils in a way that shall be of the most benefit at the formative period of the child's life. Thus, by the willing and intelligent co-operation of the teacher, the Library can best lend a helping hand to the young when it is most needed. If the child has access to the best literature, and receives from his teacher, who has presumably gained an insight into his mind, and is often the one best fitted to give direction to it, some help in what to read, in the method of reading, in forming habits of due reflection on what is read,—guarding against the morbid habit of aimless and excessive reading, which occasioned the significant remark of Bishop Butler, endorsed by Matthew Arnold, that "really, in general, no part of our time is more idly spent than the time spent in reading,"—substantial and far-reaching results have already been accomplished. Some such instruction regarding books and how to use works of reference at this period, of all ways, furnishes the greatest likelihood that the child will acquire a taste for good reading, carry it through life, and in turn impart it to those who come after him. If the result of good reading is to make a man broader and better fitted for the duties of life, the value of such a relation between the Library and the schools cannot be overestimated. In this connection the Trustees wish to express their appreciation of the hearty co-operation of the Superintendent and the teachers of the public schools in this branch of the Library's work.

The children's department was continued with encouraging results till the necessities of the building operations rendered further use of the room impracticable.

The Sunday opportunities of the Library have been also curtailed for the same reason.

A musical department was established in the spring by the purchase of books of standard music and the better popular music of the day. In the selection of this collection the Library is much indebted to S. Henry Hadley, teacher of music in the public schools. This department has already fulfilled the favorable expectations as to its success.

In presenting the needs of the Library for the coming year, as required by charter, the Trustees are confronted by the unpleasant duty of asking for a considerably larger appropriation than has hitherto been granted for the maintenance of the Library. Owing to the sharp advance in the price of nearly all building materials between the time of the Trustees' estimate of the cost of the addition and the time of giving out the contract, the appropriation voted by the City Council has been found insufficient to complete the work designed. Consequently, the finishing of the new stackroom is still unprovided for.

No appropriation was asked for last year for furnishing the new wing, but it is obvious that such an appropriation will become a necessity this year if library work is to be carried on in the new part. The Trustees estimate the cost of the required furniture and fittings at about $3,000.

It has been elsewhere observed that the capacity of the Library will be practically doubled with the completion of the new addition. This increased accommodation will entail a considerable increase in the regular current expenses of the year. More light, more heat, more insurance, and more salaries will be required. To these increased current expenses and the cost of furniture for the new wing should be added the cost of the small libraries for the unsupplied schools, the expense of evening opening of the Library, which is clearly demanded for at least a part of the year, and the expense attending the preparation of the card catalogue, with its 150,000 cards,—a work which, with some extra help, may be ready for casing before the close of another year. All these unusual sources of expense, the Trustees feel, should be fully laid before Your Honor and your Honorable Board for your appreciation and consideration.

A comparison of the financial resources of our Library with those of other cities in the Commonwealth has shown that, while our Library carries on a business notably larger than the average, it has a very considerably smaller sum than the average with which to carry on that business. This institution is as yet without the considerable endowments of many other public libraries, but we live in hope that there may be found among our generous, public-spirited citizens some who will recognize the high importance of the mission of the modern library, and add to the number of our invested funds, which at present are limited to the single benefaction of Mrs. Harriet Minot Laughlin.

The Trustees are glad to testify to the intelligent zeal and sympathetic spirit displayed by the Librarian in his new profession, and to the faithfulness and enthusiasm and the noticeable spirit of helpfulness and harmony prevailing among his assistants.

Respectfully submitted for the Board of Trustees,

CHARLES S. LINCOLN, President.

December 31, 1899.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:—

I herewith submit the Librarian's twenty-seventh annual report.

The business of the Library during the past year, considering the interruptions to which we have been subjected, incident to the erection of the new annex, has gone forward with about its usual ratio of increase. The exact circulation of the Library and its branches is herewith appended:—

Circulation.

Total home circulation		215,448
West Somerville agency	20,003	
East Somerville agency	8,069	
South Somerville agency	5,047	
North Somerville agency	1,198	
Grammar Schools	7,387	
Special libraries, including high schools	32,040	
Percentage of fiction taken out	66.2	
" " other works taken out	33.8	

Books Withdrawn.

Number of books worn out	367	
" " " lost by general readers	23	
" " " " in schools	2	
" burned on account of infectious exposure	9	
Total number withdrawn	401	
Total number of books withdrawn to January, 1899		3,591
" " " " " during 1899		401
Total		3,992

Books Added.

Accession number, January 1, 1899	44,308
" " January 1, 1900	47,423
Total number of books added during 1899	3,115
Books new to the library	2,593
Duplicates	522
Total number withdrawn	3,992
Total number of books in the library	43,431

Visitors in Reference and Reading Room.

January	1,900
February	1,629
March	2,036
April	1,670
May	1,376
June	1,029
July	916
August	879
September	1,642
October	1,964
November	2,442
December	2,251
Total	19,734

Binding.

Volumes rebound	1,849
Periodicals bound	218
Paper-covered books bound	28
Pamphlets	21
Total	2,116

Card Catalogue.

The work on our new card catalogue is being pushed to the full extent of our facilities. Already the fiction and biography are completed, and a good start has been made upon the history. In all, about 40,000 cards have been written. The process is a slow one, and one that, from the nature of the case, must be done with great care and exactness. As large a portion of the force of the Library as can be spared from other duties are engaged constantly upon this work. It is progressing with all possible rapidity.

The Library and the Schools.

During the past year we have sent to the schools 7,387 volumes to be taken out by the pupils on cards; and the circulation of our special libraries in the schools has been 32,040. It will be seen that there has been a decided increase in the circulation of these school libraries. I am becoming convinced that it is through the agency of these libraries that we can help the schools more than by any other method. In fact, it is about as near an ideal way of getting good literature before the young as has yet been devised. Select libraries of books best fitted for the years and requirements of their readers, under the oversight of competent teachers, are by this method placed within the reach of boys and girls in their most susceptible and formative years. The statement sounds incredible, but yet it has been demonstrated, that these special libraries in the schools furnish a large number of our boys and girls with the only books they ever see. Before this system of putting these special libraries in the schools was inaugurated, the principal of one of our large grammar schools made a careful canvass of his various rooms, with a view to discovering how many of his pupils were readers of books. He learned by this canvass the really astounding fact that from twelve to sixteen pupils in each room had never read a book. Outside the text-books handled in the schoolroom, these pupils were as absolutely bookless as the aborigines of America. This state of affairs shows that, in spite of the vast amounts of money spent on schools and libraries, an alarming percentage of the people remain practically illiterate. To reduce this percentage to the lowest possible figure is the urgent business of the Public Library. And I know no better way that this can be done than by

furnishing all the schools with these well-selected libraries, which the children use with great eagerness and with great intellectual improvement to themselves.

Some effort has been made during the past year to discover to how wide an extent the Library is known in the community. Through the courtesy of an enterprising and enthusiastic lady, a limited portion of the city was canvassed, and application blanks were offered the people, and incidentally many questions were tactfully asked. By this means, and by much indirect information that has come to us, I have every reason to believe that there are still a certain number of people within the limits of the city who do not know that there is a library here. There are many others who may know, in a vague way, of the existence of the Library who are uncertain of its location, and who never visit it. There are some who do not use the Library because they do not understand the process of taking out a card, or how to use the catalogue and finding list. A little instruction in the schools as to such points as these might be of material help. There are still some who have the impression that the Library is not a free library, and that pay is exacted for the books. There is even now a small remnant of people who still cherish the fear that reading is dangerous, and that a library exerts a pernicious influence in the community. It has been my impression that all such people as the above might be reached by a personal canvass. But this would be expensive, and might, in some instances, give serious offense. Perhaps the best method, after all, to reach them is by way of the younger generation and through the schools. The children in the schools, I am told, eagerly use these special libraries, take home the books to their parents, and the instances are many where the parents themselves become interested in the books, and urge their children to bring home more of them. Here, it would seem, is one of the most practicable ways of getting the books of the Library before the people.

I am very glad to report that we have been able to supply the demands of the teachers the present year with much more fullness and promptitude than in previous years. It is now known approximately what books the teachers will request, and these books have been gradually purchased, from time to time, so that the present supply is equal to the present demand. I hope that it is not equal to the future demand, and that the increasing interest of teachers in this method of disseminating literature will create a necessity for a much larger equipment on our part in the future.

We have been supplying, as a rule, twenty-five books to a room. I believe that each room should be furnished with at least one book for every pupil. Although many of the teachers have availed themselves of these special library privileges, there is still a larger number that has not done so. There are at present in the grades below the high schools 217 teachers. Only eighty-

five teachers out of these 217 have, as yet, applied for these special libraries, leaving a balance of 132 teachers whose rooms have no library books. The rapidly-growing interest of the teachers in these libraries, however, leads me to infer that practically all of them will eventually desire this privilege; and it should be our aim to be sufficiently well-equipped to supply the demand the moment it begins to exist. The Library notes with gratification the growing tendency of the pupils of the schools to visit the Library and draw upon its resources. The Library staff, personally, exerts every effort their limit of time will permit to help the school pupils in their studies, to assist them in their reference work, and to point out to them the proper sources of information. Special lists of books suitable to the different grades are being published from month to month in our bulletins. Teachers have been personally asked to send their pupils to the Library for assistance and consultation; and it is the aim of the Library to give such pupils such a reception that the most shy and timid will be encouraged to come again.

A Reading Committee.

A reading committee, consisting largely of competent and intelligent women, has been organized during the past few months to read the new novels before their admission to the Library. This work is performed by the committee gratuitously. Although the decisions of this committee will not always be accepted as absolutely final, their judgment of a book deserves weighty consideration. This reading committee was organized simply because time will not permit the Librarian to read the new novels purchased, and it is somewhat unsafe to put in modern novels indiscriminately without previously reading them. A rigid and narrow censorship is not the purpose of this committee, and a wide and liberal latitude, with an eye to the limitless diversities of human tastes, should be exercised in the choice of a public collection of books. Neither a prudish squeamishness nor a finical fastidiousness should determine such choice. But when there are novels published that are grossly indecent, and novels that are insufferably dull, a weeding-out process is a salutary thing. It is worth while to take some pains, when our purchasing power is so limited, to buy good novels rather than bad ones. And it was solely to further this design that this reading committee was organized.

Gifts.

The Library has received the following donations of books, pamphlets, and periodicals during the past year:—

LIST OF DONATIONS.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
American Cultivator			27
American Swedenborg Society	2		
Amherst College		1	
Anderson, Rev. G. S.		1	
Atlanta, Georgia		1	
Bennett, Col. E. C.		1	
Bisbee, Rev. C. E.	113	4	
Book Reviews			18
Booth, Dr. E. C.	81		
Boston City Hospital		1	
Boston Transit Commission	1		
Bostonian Society	1		
Brooks, E. S.	4		
Cambridge (Mass.) Congregational Church	1		
Canfield, Mrs. A. K.	9		
Chicago Educational Commission	1		
Christian Register			52
Christian Science Journal			12
Christian Science Sentinel			52
Cone, Joe	1		
Colorado (State) Normal School		1	
Conant, Mrs. S. P.	2		
Cook's Excursionist			12
Creighton, Mrs. H. R.	11	1	
Davis, Walter A.	1		
Dawson, Howard	1		
Depew, Chauncey M.	1	1	
Elliot, C. D.	6		
Food, Home, and Garden			12
Foss, Sam Walter	2		
Foss, Saxton C.	1		
Foster, W. H.	50		
Gleaner			10
Goldsmith, B. W.	8		
Gosse, George H.	1		
Hackett, C. C.	1		
Harvard University	1		
Helper			12
Hersey, Hattie B.	1		
Hoar, G. F.		1	
Home Market Bulletin			4
Houghton, Mifflin, & Co.	2		
Human Alliance			6
Journal of Orthoepy and Orthography			1
Kaan, Frances W.	4		
Land of Sunshine			12
Lee & Shepard	1		
Lexington, Mass.	1		
Life and Light for Women			12
Lincoln, G. A.	10		
Literary News			12
Lord, Annie S.	1		
Loring, G. F.		1	
McDonald, Arthur	1	1	
Carried forward	321	15	254

List of Donations. — Continued.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Brought forward	321	15	254
McQueen, Rev. Peter	2		
Manifesto			12
Mason, C. A.		1	
Massachusetts	11	2	
Massachusetts Agricultural College		3	
Massachusetts Institute of Technology		1	
Massachusetts New Church Union	1		
Massachusetts Volunteer Aid Association	1		
Maulsby, D. L.		1	
Mayflower Descendant			3
Mead, E. D.		1	
Mills, B. Fay	1		
Minneapolis, Minn.	1		
Moore, John		2	
New England Anti-Vivisection Society			19
New York (State) University	1	1	
Norcross, F. Mabel	1		
Pennsylvania, University of		1	
People			52
Public Libraries: —			
Allegheny, N. Y.		1	
Amesbury		1	
Baltimore, Md.		1	
Boston		2	10
Brockton		1	
Brookline		1	4
Brooklyn, N. Y.		1	
Cambridge		2	10
Chelsea		1	
Clerkenwell, London		1	
Clinton		1	
Concord		1	
Concord, N. H.		1	
Danvers (Peabody Institute)		1	
Dayton, Ohio		1	
Detroit, Mich.		1	
Everett		1	
Fall River		1	
Fitchburg			4
Hartford, Conn.		1	9
Jersey City, N. J.		1	4
Lancaster		1	
Lawrence		1	
Leicester		1	
Leominster		1	
Littleton (Reuben Hoar Library)		1	
Lowell		1	1
Lynn		1	8
Malden		1	
Manchester, N. H.		1	
Medford		1	
Melrose		1	
Carried forward	340	61	390

List of Donations. — Concluded.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Brought forward	340	61	390
Public Libraries (Continued): —			
Minneapolis, Minn.		1	
New Bedford		1	1
New Haven, Conn.	1	1	8
New York, N. Y.		1	12
Newark, N. J.		1	8
Newton		1	
North Adams		1	
Northampton		1	
Northampton (Forbes Library)		1	
Norwich, Conn. (Otis Library)			1
Paterson, N. J.			1
Peabody		1	
Philadelphia, Pa.		1	
Plymouth, Eng.		1	
Poughkeepsie		1	
Providence, R. I.			10
Quincy (Thomas Crane)		1	
Salem	1	1	10
San Francisco			10
Scranton, Pa.		1	2
Seattle, Wash.			3
Springfield		1	8
Syracuse, N. Y.		1	
Taunton		1	
Waltham		1	6
Watertown		1	
Winthrop		1	
Woburn		1	2
Worcester		1	
Public Opinion	1		
Pulsifer, W. E.	1		
Radiator			12
Red Cross Society		1	
Rogers, E. H.	1		
Sargent, Aaron	1		
Somerville, Mass.	2		
Somerville Journal			104
Taylor, C. F.		1	
Tead, Mrs. E. L.	54		
Tucker, Charlotte		1	
Tufts College		2	
Tuftonian			7
Tufts Weekly			33
United States	44	12	52
Wellington, J. F.	1		
Willis, C. W.	6		
Total	458	102	680

Recommendations.

I respectfully submit a few recommendations for your future consideration:—

While there is a steady increase in our yearly circulation, our monthly figures show there is a steady decrease in our summer circulation. The number of people who spend the summer months, or part of the summer months, out of town is increasing, and increasing very rapidly, from year to year. These people are no less citizens and residents of Somerville while they are out of town than when they are at home; and their right to the use of the Library is not set aside by their temporary absence. Besides, the vacation season is the especial time of year when they have the most leisure for reading. For these reasons, it seems to me, it would be well to have a special vacation card on which people could take out ten or perhaps a larger number of books for the period of one month, with the privilege of renewing by mail for a longer period. Such an arrangement, I think, would be greatly appreciated by the patrons of the Library, and would be entirely in line with our general policy of changing the regulations of the Library to suit the changing conditions of the people.

The Library's musical department, established last year, has been a popular innovation, and has already done something to foster the musical tastes of the community. This department should be increased by gradual purchases until it develops into a good working musical collection. In direct line with this departure I would recommend another. An art department in the same way should be gradually built up, from which the rapidly-increasing number of people interested in art may obtain engravings, prints, photographs, etc., on a regular reader's card as they now obtain books. The largely-increased attention given to such work in the public schools renders it desirable that the Library, as a helpful co-operator with the schools, should keep step in time with the new artistic activity.

It is to be hoped that the new annex will be completed early in the coming year. This, when entirely finished, will give the Library more than double its present capacity. In this annex I would suggest that there be established a good newspaper room, where the large dailies of the large cities and some of the representative weeklies can be consulted. Some paper, like the London Times, should also be on file, and possibly a representative French paper, and perhaps a Spanish paper, also.

In the reading room, on the first floor, I believe that the great representative books of the world, in all departments of human thought, should be arranged in shelves about the room, free of access to all who wish to consult them. Such a room should be organized on the same lines as Bates hall in the Boston Public Library, though necessarily, of course, on a much smaller scale.

In the art department of the new annex a sub-department devoted to art in the schools, I think, could be made a great incentive to the pupils of Somerville. It would be, I think, an excellent plan to have the prize pictures and drawings of the pupils of the public schools placed on exhibition in our art rooms. Let the pupils in each of the schools, or in each of the rooms, as the art teacher may decide, be told that the one whose drawing or picture is adjudged the best will have his work on exhibition in the Library art room, and a powerful incentive to art development will be exerted. Such an exhibition would gratify the pride of a pupil in our schools as much as it would gratify the pride of a professional artist to have his picture on exhibition in the Paris Salon, or in any of the great galleries of the great capitals. I believe, too, that the pictures of the professional Somerville artists (and there are some such that have attained distinction, and several of great promise) should be placed on exhibition from time to time. A loan exhibition of valuable paintings owned by residents of Somerville it may be possible to arrange as soon as it is made apparent that we have means of exhibiting them to advantage. The art department of the new Library should be one of its prominent features.

When the new annex is completed, I earnestly recommend that the Library be kept open evenings, with the exception of the summer months of July and August, when a Saturday evening opening will be sufficient.

When this annex is completed the Library will have facilities, as far as room is concerned, to develop into an institution that will be abreast of most other institutions in cities of an equal size. As a consequence, the expenses of the Library will be largely increased. An increase in our salary fund for extra attendants, a large increase in light and fuel bills, and a large increase in insurance will be imperative. The present appropriation of the city is $9,000 a year. The appropriation for the maintenance of a building twice as large as the present one should, on a conservative estimate, be at least $13,000. Even at this figure the Library would be run at a very much smaller outlay than other libraries of the Commonwealth that do a much smaller business than ours.

All the members of the Library staff still continue to perform their work with faithfulness and enthusiasm. I thank the members of your board for your kindness and co-operation.

Respectfully submitted,

SAM WALTER FOSS, Librarian.

28th Annual Report

of the

Trustees of the Public Library

of the

City of Somerville

Massachusetts

1900

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
P 88119
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1901

*HND

TWENTY-EIGHTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library

Compliments of the

Trustees of the Public Library.



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT
1901

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
P88119
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1901

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

OF THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1900.

Trustees.

CHARLES A. WEST.
EDWARD C. BOOTH, M. D.
GEORGE W. PERKINS.
JOHN B. VIALL.
J. FRANK WELLINGTON.
CHARLES W. SAWYER.
HOWARD D. MOORE.
IRVING G. HALL.
EDWARD GLINES.

Officers.

CHARLES A. WEST President.
SAM WALTER FOSS Secretary.

Committees.

Building and Grounds — Viall, Perkins, and Hall.
Administration — Wellington, Sawyer, and Glines.
Books and Catalogues — West, Viall, Booth, Wellington, Moore, and Sawyer.
Finance — Perkins, Hall, and Glines.

Librarian.

SAM WALTER FOSS.

Assistant Librarian.

ADELE SMITH.

Cataloguer.

F. MABEL NORCROSS.

Assistant Cataloguer.

ESTHER M. MAYHEW.

Children's Librarian.

ANNA L. STONE.

School Librarian.

EDITH B. HAYES.

Reference and Art Librarian.

MABEL E. BUNKER.

Assistants.

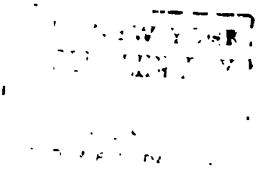
MARY J. WARREN.
MARY S. WOODMAN.
FLORENCE D. HURTER.
BESSIE L. DUDDY.
MARY L. SIMAS.
F. EDWARD KAULA.
AUBREY A. HILLS.
CHARLES F. SHEPARD
GARDNER STACY.

Janitor.

CHARLES A. SOUTHWICK.



SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY.



PUBLIC LIBRARY ACCOUNT.

Receipts and Expenditures for 1900.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1899	$ 02
Dog tax	3,257 45
Income on Pitman fund	50 00
Annual appropriation	10,000 00
Fines, etc.	462 55
Library bureau	16 00
Charles Scribner's Sons	1 00
Total	$13,787 02

DEBIT.

Books and periodicals	$4,116 62
Binding	933 13
Cards	136 00
Printing	318 51
Stationery	53 80
Salaries	6,924 80
Agencies	158 40
Boxes	21 38
Repairs	22 15
Express	298 86
Electric lights	53 40
Gas	4 80
Water	4 36
Typewriter	90 00
Postage	20 00
Telephone	49 32
Labor	69 84
Insurance	254 65
Supplies	73 79
Pictures	88 79
Disbursements	51 50
Balance carried to 1901	42 92
Total	$13,787 02

Isaac Pitman Poetry Fund.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1899	$40 57
Income for 1900	50 00
Total	$90 57

DEBIT.

Books of poetry purchased in 1900	$50 68
Balance carried to 1901	39 89
Total	$90 57

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To the Honorable, the Mayor, and the Board of Aldermen of the City of Somerville:—

Gentlemen,—The twenty-eighth annual report of the Trustees of the Public Library is herewith respectfully submitted.

The past year has been memorable in the history of the Library because of its enlarged facilities and the phenomenal increase in circulation of books for home use, as well as the constantly growing attendance in the children's department and the opening of the Library every evening to the public.

Much of this material advancement has been made possible by the liberal appropriation for the enlargement of the building, and the Trustees are gratified that with the increased opportunities have come increased use, which testifies to the intelligent and wise public spirit which governs our civic administration, for in no way can the mental and moral condition of a community be more effectually raised than by encouraging the use of the Public Library.

Early in the year the experiment was tried of opening the Library every week day evening until nine o'clock, looking forward to a possible small attendance during the summer months. The opportunity affording access to the reading rooms, where could be found the leading newspapers and periodicals, was quickly appreciated, and the attendance increased to such an extent that it was found necessary to make this regulation permanent. This room is often crowded, and the Trustees look forward with apprehension to the time when the present facilities will be found entirely inadequate.

The popularity of the new room for the use of the children is evidenced by its already crowded condition at certain hours, notably during the late afternoon and on Sundays. The attendance of the children has far exceeded the most sanguine expectations, and if their needs and desires are to be gratified, as they certainly should be, an immediate purchase of juvenile books must be made. Can the money of the city be more wisely or judiciously expended than by giving these young children access to such books as shall supplement the education furnished them in the public schools?

The most pressing need at the present time is the completion of the new wing, which should be suitably furnished with stacks in keeping with those now in use. The cost of the required furniture and fittings is estimated at approximately $6,500.

The work which the Library is now doing should be extended and enlarged as contemplated, and no time should be lost in placing this room in condition for immediate use.

The tendency of the prominent libraries to-day is to bring the people into closer relations with the books themselves, and where the experiment has been tried of permitting free access to the stacks, it has proved most helpful. It is the desire of this board to furnish the same facility for the free examination of books and periodicals as can be enjoyed in a private library or a book store. Where this privilege has been granted, an increased attendance is apparent at once. While the Library exists to supply the demands of the people, it should also cultivate a desire for good literature, and by permitting a free inspection of the books, many valuable, though comparatively unknown, volumes are brought into circulation.

The Trustees are indebted to Superintendent Southworth for many kindnesses, as shown by his interest in the Library and his hearty co-operation in bringing its advantages to the attention of the scholars. The Public Library is an able adjunct to the public school system, and supplements the work of the teacher to a marked degree.

The circulation of books for home use has very materially increased during the past year, and this Library retains the enviable position of being second only in the state to the city of Boston in number of volumes circulated.

The musical department, which was established last year, has been acceptably received, and the increase in the circulation of musical literature has been marked.

A growing desire for a closer and better knowledge of works of art and all pertaining has encouraged an extension of the art department, which has already a valuable nucleus. A collection of photographs of the old masters has recently been purchased, which have been suitably mounted and will shortly be ready for circulation in portfolio form. It is planned to further materially increase the usefulness of this department during the coming year.

The Trustees are again privileged to acknowledge the beneficence of Mrs. Harriet Minot Laughlin, who has made a further donation to the Isaac Pitman fund of the munificent sum of four thousand dollars, the income of which is to be expended by the Trustees in the purchase of works of art. This bountiful donation is greatly prized and appreciated, and it is fondly hoped that it may prove to be only the forerunner of still further benefactions.

Notwithstanding the large purchase of books during the past year, we are unable to answer the demands of the public for the prominent works of the day, which is a source of much annoyance to the Librarian and his assistants. In consequence of the inability on the part of the Library to satisfy the people, we

have seen a growing number of book clubs and circulating libraries, whose business comes largely from our card holders. This is, indeed, unfortunate, as the scope of the Library should include all demands of the reading public if its sacred province is to be maintained. This proud position can only be secured by liberal appropriations judiciously expended.

Those not familiar with the Library and the work it is doing can have but a slight idea of the labor and responsibility resting upon the Librarian and his assistants during this period of reorganization in order to successfully meet the requirements of the people. It is a pleasure to note the great interest taken by our Librarian and the hearty zeal and labor which is shown by the increased and still increasing circulation and attendance. The assistants are universally courteous and attentive, and a cordial spirit of co-operation is everywhere manifest.

CHARLES A. WEST, President.

December 31, 1900.



DELIVERY ROOM.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:—

I herewith submit the Librarian's twenty-eighth annual report.

The year just closing has been an epochal one in the history of the Public Library. The completion of the new annex has enabled the Library to greatly expand its work along the lines of progressive activity, and to fulfill some, at least, of modern library demands. The year has begun a new epoch in the history of the Library, an epoch of growth, and of wider development in all departments. The year has been successful in many ways, as will be seen by the following statement in detail relative to the various departments:—

The Cataloguing Department.

The cataloguing department, under the supervision of Miss F. Mabel Norcross, in addition to its regular work, has been occupied upon the new card catalogue. This really formidable undertaking is now nearing completion. All the available help of the Library have now been engaged upon this task for a period of about two years and a half during all their available time. The work is now completed with the exception of the departments of Religion and Philosophy. In a matter of this kind it is dangerous to make specific predictions, but it is probable the work will be entirely completed within a period of three months. This catalogue, though not complete, has been used by the public for several months. It is housed in an elegant and well-made case, easy of access, in the delivery room. The books are catalogued under author, title, and subject, with copious cross references. It has been the cataloguer's aim to reduce the difficulties of finding a given book to the minimum. This new card catalogue is of incalculable aid to the patrons of the Library, and is greatly appreciated by the public.

A card catalogue, alphabetically arranged, is in most respects the ideal catalogue. But it is not portable. It must be consulted, if it is consulted at all, at the central library, and this is such a barrier to its use that many citizens cannot make it available at all. The making of a complete printed catalogue for a library of the present size of ours would involve great labor and an impossible expense. The most practicable thing to do is, perhaps, to print special lists from time to time of the books in our various departments. During the coming year a list of our juvenile books should be thus printed. These lists should be distributed through the schools in considerable numbers. There is already a great call for such a list, which we have no means of supplying. If the expense is not too great, a complete list of our works of fiction, purchased since 1895, the date of our last

printed catalogue, should also be prepared. The work of cataloguing a library is a work that is never completed; and in a growing library it is a work that can never be in a condition entirely satisfactory to the public. The more rapidly a library grows, the more unsatisfactory must be this condition. It is the penalty paid to progress. By the frequent publication of new special lists we should endeavor to reduce these unsatisfactory features to the minimum.

Below are the statistics of the books withdrawn from the Library, and the books added to the Library, and the books bound by the Library during the year:—

Books Withdrawn.

Number of books worn out	563	
" " " lost by general readers	10	
" " " " in schools	17	
" burned on account of infectious exposure	18	
Total number withdrawn	608	
Total number of books withdrawn to January, 1900		3,992
" " " " " during 1900		608
Total		4,600

Books Added.

Accession number, January 1, 1900	47,423
" " January 1, 1901	52,672
Total number of books added during 1900	5,249
Books new to the library	2,916
Duplicates	2,333
Total number withdrawn	4,600
Total number of books in the library	48,072

Binding.

Volumes rebound	1,900
Periodicals bound	207
Paper-covered books bound	34
Pamphlets	14
Total	2,155

The Reference and Art Department.

The Reference and Art Department, under the supervision of Miss Mabel E. Bunker, has made a steady progress. The reference room in the Library, in addition to its use by the general public, is coming to be used by all the pupils of the schools much as a college library is used by the students of a college. The Library and the schools are two co-ordinate branches of one common system of education, and it is the aim of the Library through its reference department to supply all the supplementary aid that the scholars of the public schools demand.

Below is given the statistics of attendance in the reference room during the different months of the year 1900:—

January	2,695
February	2,675
March	2,783
April	4,005
May	2,630
June	1,836
July (periodicals removed)	966
August	256
September	1,513
October	2,369
November	1,889
December	2,290
Total	25,907

It will be seen by the above figures that when the periodicals were taken from the reading room last July the attendance immediately dropped to a low point. Since then the attendance has, however, rapidly increased, and is already approaching the average that prevailed when the room was a reading room and reference room combined.

The Art Department of the Library is as yet in its infancy. Our collection of art books is a promiscuous and somewhat haphazard one, containing many works of real value and some of comparative worthlessness. It will form a substantial nucleus, however, for better things. There has been of late a very rapid development of the artistic sentiment in the community. This is due largely to the instruction given the pupils in the public schools, the study along these lines fostered by the women's clubs, and the increased attention given to these matters by the special magazines devoted to such topics, as well as by general magazines and periodicals. There is a very general and rapid art taste developing. It is needless to say that in this movement the Public Library should be a leader. Art books and art works of all kinds are expensive, and for this very reason they are usually beyond the reach of private purchase and are accessible only through the public library to most of our people. We are expected to have them, as we are expected to have the expensive books of reference. The time has arrived when this altogether natural expectation on the part of the public should be gratified. It is fortunate that we shall be able to satisfy this need, to a degree at least, through the generous gift of four thousand dollars lately donated the Library by Harriet Minot Laughlin, of Boston. We have already purchased one hundred and fifteen well mounted photographs of many of the masterpieces of the world's great artists. These will be placed in portfolios especially designed for the purpose, and are an excellent addition to the art equipment of the Library. This selection was made by Miss Mary L. Patrick, supervisor of drawing in the public schools, to whom we owe a debt of thanks for her trained services. These portfolios will be given out on readers' cards the same as books.

These purchases should be continued. If, in addition to the

regular income from our Pitman fund, the Library should annually spend an equal amount from its own appropriation, an art department in a few years would be developed in which the city would have reason to feel just pride.

The Library has had several fine exhibits during the past year from the Library Art Club. At present, through the efforts of F. Edward Kaula of the staff, we are showing a fine exhibit of water colors and oil paintings from our local Somerville artists. We have on exhibition pictures by Miss Emily S. Davis, Miss Lizzie F. Wait, C. Scott White, Robert C. Woodbury, Alfred E. Smith, and William J. Kaula. It is the universal testimony that this exhibition is an excellent one, and the city that can produce such artists should do all it can through its Library to encourage art. It will be the aim of the Library to have some exhibition on view all the time. Later on we hope to have an exhibit of original drawings, pen and ink drawings, architectural designs, decorated china, and other decorative work, an art exhibit of the school children, loan exhibits of famous foreign pictures, and a loan exhibit of fine paintings from our own citizens. The Library ought to own a few oil paintings of a high order of merit, preferably illustrative of local historical themes; or pictures of some literary significance. Nothing, however, of a cheap order should be considered in this connection, and the funds for such purposes should be supplied by private benefactions.

The School Department.

This, as a distinct department, is of very recent organization. It was started early in October, and was placed under the supervision of Miss Edith B. Hayes. The object of this department is to bring about a closer co-operation between the Library and the schools. In the pursuance of this object Miss Hayes has visited every school in the city and had personal conferences with nearly all the teachers. In one instance she addressed the teachers of one of the schools in a body. She has learned by personal inquiry the needs of the teachers, as far as Library service is concerned, and these needs as soon as learned we have endeavored to supply. She learns, as far as possible, the themes of study to be taken up in the immediate future, and then prepares lists of Library books bearing upon these themes; which lists are very useful, not only to the teachers and the pupils of the schools, but also greatly facilitate the work of our own staff. During the year we have sent out 112 special libraries to 112 different schoolrooms. We have also delivered in boxes to the different schools 5,624 volumes. Our entire circulation through the school libraries has been 58,520, of which 32,480 have been fiction, and 26,040 other works.

I am more and more convinced that it is through the schools that the Library can find a field for its greatest usefulness. In the schools it finds all the machinery of distribution prepared ready to its hand, and when, as in Somerville, the





CHILDREN'S ROOM.

school authorities are so willing to co-operate with the Library, a great work can be done. Our system of special libraries in the schools should be developed to a higher degree of efficiency. The children who live in distant parts of the city, especially in the winter season, find it impracticable to come to the Central Library; and if our special libraries in the schools were large enough, the schools would practically be distributing centres for the Library. We now send out about three thousand books in these special libraries, each library consisting usually of twenty-five books. This number, in most instances ought to be doubled, in order that there may be at least one book for each pupil. Children's books are not expensive, and it is probable that these three thousand books could be purchased for fifteen hundred dollars. Knowing how desirable such books are, and the great educative value they would be to the community, it is ardently to be hoped that funds will be furnished us for their immediate purchase.

There are at present, by an approximate estimate, twelve thousand pupils in our public and parochial schools. Reckoning that all our pupils who take out books from the Library and from the special libraries hold their books for a period of a week, then, during our largest weeks, six thousand pupils use our Library books. In other words, fifty per cent. of the pupils of our schools are supplied regularly with books from the Library. This is a good showing, as children's circulations go. But I can see no reason why we should feel complacent in regard to it. A very pertinent inquiry arises, "Why should not all our twelve thousand pupils use the Library and be readers of its books?" Until we make it easy, at least, for all our children to do this, there is something culpably wrong in our system of distribution. If our books are good for one-half of our pupils, they are also good for the other half, and we should make it easy for this other half to get them. It is evident that there is still work for us to do among our younger generation of readers.

The Children's Department.

The Children's Department, under the supervision of Miss Anna L. Stone, has made a remarkable advancement during the present year. The Children's room, which is the largest room in the building, at the busy hours of the day is thronged to its utmost capacity. Below is given the circulation by weeks since the opening of the school year in September:—

For the week ending				September	8th	833
"	"	"	"	"	15th	903
"	"	"	"	"	22nd	1,077
"	"	"	"	"	29th	1,155
"	"	"	"	October	6th	1,656
"	"	"	"	"	13th	2,565
"	"	"	"	"	20th	3,095
"	"	"	"	"	27th	3,299
"	"	"	"	November	4th	3,063
"	"	"	"	"	10th	2,827

For the week ending				November	17th	.	.	3,012
"	"	"	"	"	24th	.	.	3,046
"	"	"	"	December	1st	.	.	3,005
"	"	"	"	"	8th	.	.	3,070
"	"	"	"	"	15th	.	.	2,260
"	"	"	"	"	22nd	.	.	2,152
"	"	"	"	"	29th	.	.	1,889

This is really a remarkable increase, and, in the amount of actual business done, places our children's room, as far as can be ascertained, the first in the state. This increase was largely due to what I regard as one of the wisest acts ever done by your board, the absolute removal of the age limit. This removal of the age limit, through the courtesy of Mr. Southworth, the superintendent of schools, was announced in every school in the city. Application blanks for the children to fill out were placed in all the schools that desired them, and were distributed by the teachers to the children. The response of the children was immediate, and, for a time, alarming. The crowds that came were not anticipated, but in a few days the internal arrangements of the Library were so adapted that the increased attendance was taken care of without friction. This removal of the age-limit has put the resources of the Library at the disposal of all the children of the city who desired to use them, and the result has shown that this desire on the part of the children has been very general. It has brought the bookless into contact with books at an early age, and has accomplished a service the influence of which will continue far beyond our generation.

Our Children's department is a new department, and, consequently, our number of children's books is few. This sudden influx of new readers inevitably strained the resources of the department to the extreme limit. The present needs of this department are great and urgent. There are about four thousand books in the children's room. When it is remembered that the circulation of the books from this room, in a single week, may reach three thousand, and at no distant date is sure to go much higher, it can easily be inferred what a meagre supply we have with which to meet the demand. The drain upon our resources is so great that sometimes only about a thousand books are left upon the shelves in our children's room. It is really wrong for the city of Somerville to thus present its children with a supply of books no larger than the collections that can be found in scores of the private libraries in this city. Our supply of books for this room should at least be doubled. It would be almost a criminal act toward our children to double this supply gradually. It should be doubled at once. I earnestly hope that at least twenty-five hundred dollars may be appropriated for this purpose and be spent immediately after its appropriation.

Gifts.

The Library has received the following donations of books, pamphlets, and periodicals during the past year:—

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY



MAGAZINE ROOM.

List of Donations.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Acker, Finley	1		
Aitken, Charles F.	1		
American Union League Society	1		
Amherst College		1	
Balch, E. S.	1		
Barnes, W. A.	1		
Blunt, M. M.	94		
Book Reviews			20
Boston Book Company			2
Boston Transit Commission		1	
Brigham, Johnson		1	
Broadway Congregational Church			12
Brooks, Elbridge S.	155		
Brooks, Geraldine	1		
Brophy, T. C.	1		
Burnett (Joseph) Co.		1	
Christian Register			52
Christian Science Journal			63
Christian Science Sentinel			52
Cook's Excursionist			12
Dewey, Melvil		2	
Dramatic Review			52
Egypt Exploration Fund		1	
Electric Fireproofing Co.	1		
Elliot, Mary E.	1		
Ellis, G. H.	1		
Emerson, Arthur and Frank	3		
Farmer, J. E.	1		
First Universalist Church, Somerville			32
Fitchburg, Mass.	1		
Food, Home, and Garden			1
Foss, Sam Walter	6		
Frye, A. E.	1		
Gifford, F. K.	2		
Glines, Edward		42	
Goldsmith, B. W.	7		
Hall, I. G.	1		
Harmon, L. B.	13		
Harvard University	1	2	
Hawes, Frank M.			267
Helper			38
Herbert, John			81
Higgins, Charles M.		1	
Home Market Club			16
Houghton, Mifflin, & Co.	1		
Humane Alliance			6
Hunnewell, J. F.	1		
Ipswich Historical Society	1		
Journal of Orthoepy			1
Land of Sunshine			12
L. A. W. Bulletin			6
Lewis, Gilman	6	2	
Literary News			12
Carried forward	304	54	737

LIST OF DONATIONS.—Continued.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Brought forward	304	54	737
Little, Brown & Co.		1	
Lowe, Mrs. Martha Perry	3		
Malden, Mass.	1		
Manifesto			12
Marshall, Dr. Julia A.			63
Massachusetts	24	2	
Massachusetts Institute of Technology		1	
Massachusetts Society of the Sons of American Revolution	1		
Merriman, T. M.	1		
Metropolitan Water Board	1		
Murray, T. H.	1		
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston		1	
New England Anti-Vivisection Society			24
Newcomb, Mrs. Emma	1		
Newell, L. C.	1		
Occult Matter			1
O'Malley, Thomas F.		1	
Oregon Native Son			1
Palmer, B. P.	13		
Pennsylvania Prison Society		1	
People			52
Perkins Institution for the Blind	19	1	
Pope, Mrs. C. G.	7		
Public Libraries: —			
Baltimore, Md. (Enoch Pratt Library)		1	
Boston		3	12
Brockton		1	9
Brookline		3	4
Cambridge		1	10
Chelsea (Fitz Public Library)		2	
Cincinnati, Ohio		1	
Concord		1	
Detroit, Mich.		1	
Dover, N. H.		1	
Everett		1	
Fall River		1	
Fitchburg		1	4
Groton		1	
Hartford, Conn.		1	3
Haverhill		1	
Hyde Park		1	
Jersey City, N. J.		1	4
Lancaster		1	
Lawrence		1	3
Leicester		1	
Los Angeles, Cal.		1	
Lynn		1	12
Malden		1	
Manchester, N. H.		3	4
Medford		1	
Minneapolis, Minn.		1	3
New Bedford		1	4
Carried forward	377	97	962

LIST OF DONATIONS.—Continued.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Brought forward	377	97	962
Public Libraries (Continued):—			
New Haven, Conn.		1	12
New London, Conn.		2	
New Orleans, La. (Howard Memorial Library)		3	
New York City		1	12
Newark, N. J.	1	2	2
Northampton		1	
Northampton (Forbes Library)		1	
Norwich, Conn. (Otis Library)		2	
Paterson, N. J.		1	
Philadelphia, Pa.		1	
Portland, Me.		1	
Portland, Ore.		1	3
Providence, R. I.		7	6
Rochester, N. H.		2	
St. Louis, Mo.		1	
Salem		1	10
San Francisco, Cal.		1	8
Seattle, Wash.			8
Springfield		1	4
Syracuse, N. Y.		1	
Taunton		1	
Waltham		1	4
Waterbury, Conn. (Silas Waterbury Library)			2
Watertown		1	
Westboro		1	
Woburn		1	2
Worcester		1	
"Punch"		1	
Putnam's (G. P.) Sons	1		
Radiator			12
Raymond & Whitcomb, pubs.		14	
Reform Club, N. Y.			10
Sadler, Ralph	1		
Sargent, Aaron	3		
Sawyer, Charles W.	1		
Simas, Mary L.	1		
Small, Maynard, & Co.	1		
Smyth, Thomas		1	
Somerville, Mass.	2	1	
Somerville Journal			104
Souther, Emery	1		
Sterling, Mrs. D.	1		
Theosophical Book Concern	1		
Thierry, Margaret P.	2		
Thinker			3
Tiernan, C. B.	1		
Towle Manufacturing Company	1		
Travelers' Record			10
"True American," pseud.		1	
Trueman, Mrs. J. A.	1	33	
Tufts College		1	
Carried forward	396	186	1,174

LIST OF DONATIONS.—Concluded.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Brought forward	396	136	1,174
Tuftonian			8
United States	36	68	82
University of Pennsylvania		1	
Wells, Webster	1		
West, James H.	1	1	
West and Jenny			4
West Somerville Reporter			104
Wilder, Wm. L.	1		
Woman's Journal			52
Wood, Henry	2		
Woodstock College		1	
Writer			12
Zion's Herald			52
Total	437	257	1,488

General Work.

The general work of the Library, under the immediate supervision of Miss Adele Smith, assistant librarian, has expanded and developed in many ways. The most notable feature of this expansion is the considerable increase in our general circulation. Herewith subjoined are our circulation statistics for the current year:—

January	24,383
February	21,995
March	23,340
April	29,441
May	21,885
June	18,469
July	18,070
August	12,728
September	18,736
October	28,302
November	27,045
December	30,739
Total	270,133

Last year our circulation was 215,448. We accordingly show an increase the present year of 54,685, or twenty-five per cent. We have perhaps been inclined to feel satisfied with our circulation figures; but when we reflect that each member of our population has averaged less than five books apiece during the year, it does not afford reason for great jubilation. Such a condition of affairs should not prevail; and unless the Library can do something to change this condition of affairs, it is not living up to the standard of its possibilities. The public library system generally, it seems to me, is especially weak in its distribut-

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY



REFERENCE ROOM.

ART ROOM.

PICTURE ROOM.

ing capacity. In the matter of the distribution of its wares it is much behind most private business concerns. It does not adopt business methods in circulating its goods. One reason that newspapers are much more widely read than books is due to the fact that private enterprise has devised an elaborate system for delivering newspapers directly to the doors of purchasers. I do not see why it would not be entirely feasible for trustworthy boys to deliver books to houses for two cents a book—the boy, and not the Library, to retain the two cents. A book is heavier to carry than a newspaper, but a newsboy receives for himself only a half a cent for each two cent newspaper sold, and only a quarter of a cent for each one cent newspaper. Any enterprising boy who can secure a good hand-cart in the summer time, or a good sled in the winter, could probably make more money delivering library books than in selling newspapers. There are a large number of elderly persons, invalids, busy mothers, and busy men to whom such boys would be a positive boon. Of course, if a cheap library post bill could be passed by congress (and this will probably eventually be done), the general post-office would do all this work for us; and, as far as the library is concerned, it would be an ideal arrangement. But until some national system of this sort is devised it is the business of individual libraries to devise their own systems, and this system of boy-carriers, it seems to me, is a feasible one.

Of course an even better system than this, if some responsible individual would assume the enterprise, would be a system of team delivery from house to house. A man of tact and business energy should be able to establish such a system of delivery with a fair margin of profit. Private enterprise, which always, somehow, seems to get ahead of public enterprise, is already engaged in delivering books to private subscribers for a fee, and is finding it lucrative, I am told, to do so. Public libraries should lead and not follow in these things. But as it is too late for us now to lead, let us follow, as close to the front as possible.

Needs of the Library.

Many of the needs of the Library have already been described under the separate departments. But there are several general needs that urgently demand consideration. The greatest and most pressing need of the Library is a largely increased number of books. Our number of books has not increased at all in the same ratio as our circulation. I have estimated that we have less than forty thousand books in the circulating department of the Library. When the circulation in a single month is liable to go above thirty thousand, and perhaps, within the coming year, may even reach the forty thousand limit, it is easily apparent how utterly inadequate is our book supply. A library with our circulation ought certainly to possess twice the number of books it contains at present.

One of the strongest grievances that the patrons of the Library urge against it is their inability to obtain the popular novels of the day without long and vexatious delays. These complaints are numerous, persistent, and sometimes fierce in their intensity. But I believe that they are no more fierce than they are just. These novel readers make really a strong indictment against the Library. The complaint is made persistently that the Library has plenty of books, except the books the people want. The tax-payers feel that they have rights in this matter that the Library management is bound to respect. Public libraries everywhere are falling into disrepute simply because they do not, or cannot, gratify the dominant literary taste of the day. If a book is good, if it contains real literary merit, even if it does happen to be interesting and to be a novel, I believe that the people have a right to demand it of the Public Library; and I wish that the Library might be able to satisfy this demand at the time it is made. A library should never be "just out" of books, any more than a grocer should ever be "just out" of sugar. A business house that supplied the demands of its patrons no better than the library supplies the demands of its patrons for current novels, would go into bankruptcy without a pitying spectator. This is an age when men of genius give expression to their genius in the form of novels; just as men of genius expressed themselves in the time of Shakespeare through the drama, in the time of Addison through the essay, or the time of Wordsworth through the poem. People have a right to demand that the product and output of the current literary genius of the day shall be accessible in the institutions established to disseminate the products of literary genius—the public libraries. I would recommend that our purchase of the great current favorites in fiction should be doubled, and in some instances from twenty-five to thirty copies be bought. In the neighboring city of Medford such extra copies have been bought for the library through private donations of money for such purpose. Perhaps these Medford donors may find imitators in Somerville.

Free Access.

The next great reform that should be made in the conduct of the Library, it seems to me, is free access to all the books that are available for general circulation. Already we have free access to all the new books, and to many of the best books of all time and to all of the children's books. The system, as far as we have tried it, has worked well. In fact, no other system could prevail in the children's room. If the children did not select their own books, they could not be supplied at all in view of the great crowds that throng the room after school hours. The open-shelf system actually saves labor. It does not result, as far as we can determine, in any considerable loss of books by theft. The library should grant its patrons the same privileges,



FAST AND REAR VIEW.

NEWSPAPER ROOM.

HALL AND STAIRWAY.

CATALOGUERS' ROOM.

at least, as stores grant their patrons,—the privilege of examining goods before selecting them. To carry this free access project into execution it will be necesary to complete the unfinished wing of the Library. After this is finished and such a system adopted, the internal arrangements of the Library will have been carried to a high degree of efficiency.

Reading Rooms.

After the internal arrangements of the Library have been thus perfected, the consideration of branch reading rooms should be taken up. A reading room is narrowly local in its sphere of reaching the people. The majority of people, including women, the aged, and busy men, seldom find it convenient to travel a mile to reach one. Most people neither have the time nor the inclination to travel over half a mile. It ought to be possible in a city like Somerville to have a well-equipped reading room within a distance of half a mile of every home within its boundaries. Such rooms would be as effective toward good order and municipal wholesomeness as a curfew ordinance, or many policemen. The rent of such rooms and the salaries of their attendants, however, are almost prohibitive obstacles to their establishment, unless much more generous appropriations are given. This being the case, perhaps good schoolrooms might be obtained from the hours of 4 P. M. to 9 P. M. The sum of two hundred dollars would secure most of the principal reviews and periodicals for such a room. Perhaps a thousand books, or thereabouts, might be sent to the room from time to time for distribution; but if the house to house delivery system should be carried into execution, this would not be necessary. I hope, at least, that one such reading room as this may be established during the coming year.

Several acts of your board within the past twelve months have done much to make it easy to obtain books from the Library. One was the removal of the age limit, to which I have already referred; another was the repeal of the old regulation which compelled a would-be card holder to obtain two male residents of Somerville as sponsors before he could obtain a library card. Both these acts are in entire harmony with the new spirit of library management. It should be as easy for a man to obtain a book from a modern public library as it is to obtain a walk in the public parks or a drive in the public streets. Every possible vestige of red tape should be torn away. It is always an abomination to straightforward men, and a hindrance and a reproach to the institution that employs it.

The city that makes it easy for its people to obtain books will develop a citizenship that will be worth all the money it costs.

Conclusion.

The Library, it seems to me, when gauged by the measu of its possibilities, is, as yet, in the infancy of its achievemen It is the business of a public library to assume the intellectu leadership of its community. The library deals in brain; and should not confine itself exclusively to brains embodied in book but its dealing should embrace brains in pictures and all t forms of art, brains in music, and even brains in the form of pu lic lectures. I hope the day will come when the library can ta the lead in supplying good lectures to the people. Let it be intellectual and inspirational force along all lines of hum thought. It should be a purveyor to the literary, artistic, scie tific, and aesthetic needs of the city. It should not only supp these needs when developed, but should be one of the mo powerful of the agencies in developing these needs. It shou be animated by the missionary spirit of making intellectual li ing contagious. It must reach more people. In the early da of the public library its first and greatest commandment wa "Get books." That day has passed; and to-day the great co mandment is, "Get the books to the people." That should the objective point of our campaigns of the future. It is n enough that a few families should come into the library; t library itself should knock at the door of every family. It not beyond the possibilities of a community that supplies wat to all the homes that pay for it to furnish books, likewise, und the same condition. The library has very much to do alo these newer lines. It seems to me the present is a propitio time to inaugurate these undertakings.

Respectfully submitted,

SAM WALTER FOSS, Librarian.

Somerville, Mass., December 28, 1900.

TWENTY-NINTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE

MASSACHUSETTS

FOR THE YEAR 1901

SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT
1902

112814

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

OF THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1901.

Trustees.

CHARLES A. WEST.
JOHN B. VIALL.
J. FRANK WELLINGTON.
CHARLES S. SOULE.
HOWARD D. MOORE.
IRVING G. HALL.
FREDERICK W. PARKER.
EDWARD C. BOOTH, M. D.
GEORGE W. PERKINS.

Officers.

CHARLES A. WEST President.
SAM WALTER FOSS Secretary.

Committees.

Building and Grounds — Viall, Perkins, and Hall.
Administration — Wellington, Soule, and Parker.
Books and Catalogues — West, Viall, Booth, Wellington, Moore, and Hall.
Finance — Perkins, Hall, and Parker.

Librarian.

SAM WALTER FOSS.

Assistant Librarian.

ADELE SMITH.

Cataloguer.

F. MABEL NORCROSS.

Assistant Cataloguer.

ESTHER M. MAYHEW.

Children's Librarian.

ANNA L. STONE.

School Librarian.

EDITH B. HAYES.

Reference and Art Librarian.

MABEL E. BUNKER.

Assistants.

MARY J. WARREN.
MARY S. WOODMAN.
FLORENCE D. HURTER.
BESSIE L. DUDDY.
NELLIE M. WHIPPLE.
CHARLES F. SHEPARD.
GARDNER STACY.
DAVID COUNTWAY.
JOSEPH STORY.

Janitor.

CHARLES A. SOUTHWICK.

PUBLIC LIBRARY ACCOUNT.

Receipts and Expenditures for 1901.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1900	$3 03
Dog tax	2,952 60
Annual appropriation	14,000 00
Fines, etc.	421 98
J. O. Hayden (dog tax)	10 00
Dodd, Mead, & Co.	3 40
Total	$17,391 01

DEBIT.

Books and periodicals	$5,650 69
Binding	1,454 16
Cards	141 65
Printing	407 90
Stationery	61 05
Salaries	8,183 88
Agencies	191 66
Repairs	28 21
Express	357 31
Postage	39 08
Telephone	88 45
Labor	75 82
Pictures	35 95
Disbursements	90 27
Ice	36 10
Hall	15 00
Supplies	24 74
Premium on West End Railway bonds	287 50
Balance carried to 1902	221 59
Total	$17,391 01

Isaac Pitman Poetry Fund.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1900	$39 89
Interest for 1901	54 86
Coupon	20 00
Total	$114 75

DEBIT.

Books of poetry purchased in 1901	$28 53
Accrued Interest on Bonds purchased	58
Balance carried to 1902	85 64
Total	$114 75

Isaac Pitman Art Fund.

CREDIT.

Interest from October to February	$55 56
Coupon	80 00
Total	$135 56

DEBIT.

Art Works purchased in 1901	$114 45
Accrued Interest on Bonds purchased	2 20
Balance carried to 1902	18 91
Total	$135 56

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To the Honorable, the Mayor, and the Board of Aldermen of the City of Somerville:—

Gentlemen,—The twenty-ninth annual report of the Trustees of the Public Library is herewith respectfully submitted.

It is with mingled feelings of pleasure and satisfaction that your Board are able to report that the Library has continued during the past year to serve our citizens with satisfaction and profit, and has afforded to them increasing privileges and opportunities which have not hitherto been available.

The ever present alertness and watchfulness on the part of our very efficient Librarian have resulted in the opening of new avenues by which our readers and patrons have been able to take advantage of the opportunities furnished by the facilities at hand, and to which attention had not previously been drawn. After three years of diligent and painstaking labor on the part of the cataloguer and her assistants, the card catalogue has been completed. In addition, there has been placed in the agency at West Somerville a nearly complete card catalogue of books added to the library since 1895. This has proved to be a great convenience to the residents of this section, living as they do at a distance.

During the past year, owing to a liberal appropriation by the city government, the new stack room, giving an added capacity for over 40,000 books, has been fully furnished and will certainly prove a valuable addition to the facilities for accommodating the public. The completion of this new room, which has been so long anticipated, has necessitated the moving and rearranging of the entire collection of books with the end in view of giving the public free access to the entire circulating contents of the Library. The details for this radical departure in the management have now been completed, and at the beginning of the new year our citizens can examine the books at hand with the same freedom that they can in their own homes. It is anticipated that this privilege will be appreciated, and a largely increased circulation will become apparent at once.

The opportunities afforded in the Children's Room for free access to all juvenile works has been a source of great pleasure to them, and has materially tended to increase the circulation of books for home use in this department. An increased interest is also shown in the books and periodicals which are read and examined by the children at the tables. It is gratifying to note the continued prosperity of this department, particularly on Sunday

afternoons, when the capacity of the room is often taxed to its utmost. The reading room adjoining, where may be found the leading dailies and weeklies, continues to be largely attended.

The Music Department has grown greatly in popularity, and no other class of books in the Library, with the exception of works of fiction, is in greater demand. A valuable collection of books pertaining to music has recently been added, for the selection of which the thanks of the Board are due to Mr. S. Henry Hadley.

A close co-operation with the schools has been maintained, with the most gratifying results to teachers and scholars alike. The drawings done in our public schools have several times been on view, and these have instructed and entertained the public more than any other art exhibits of the year, and perhaps aroused more interest than all of the other exhibits combined.

An increasing demand for books at the agency at West Somerville has been a pleasing evidence that the Library and its opportunities are becoming more and more appreciated by our citizens. With the limited means at our command it has been a problem to formulate a plan to better serve the residents of this section. Some complaints have been received that requests for books were not filled; this is due to an insufficient supply of current fiction. Three hundred books have been placed at this agency, which has in a great measure accommodated the people and has been appreciated.

A request has been made that a branch library and reading room shall be established in the vicinity of Davis square. This request has been referred to a special committee, and the subject is now being considered by them. Your Board fully recognize the desirability of extending such privileges, and it is perhaps needless to say that the subject will receive their careful and thoughtful consideration.

The Department of Art and the collection of poetry have received material additions during the past year from purchases made with the income received from the Isaac Pitman funds.

In consequence of the great demand for the popular books of the day, and the inability to supply a sufficient number of copies to answer all requests, it was decided to limit the use of the books in greatest demand to four days, in place of the long-established regulation of seven days. The experiment has proved successful and in a measure has been a relief. No one not connected with a library can understand how difficult it is for a card holder to obtain a popular book. As many as twenty copies of an individual work have been purchased to satisfy this demand. It is one of the most perplexing problems confronting the Librarian and his assistants.

A system of house-to-house delivery has been inaugurated, and at the present time fifteen boys are engaged in the work.

Most of the routes covered may be considered successful, as the plan has been much favored by people who have not before patronized the Library in consequence of their inability to reach the Library, or their lack of knowledge of what was theirs for the asking. The plan has been so recently adopted, statistics are not yet available. All expenses connected with this method of distribution are met entirely by the card holders, and so far to their complete satisfaction.

With the numerous changes adopted and made necessary, it may be fairly considered that the Library has passed through a period of transition, and the changes and improvements have so far resulted satisfactorily.

The Trustees feel warranted in looking forward to the new year with every prospect of growth and prosperity.

CHARLES A. WEST,
President.

December 31, 1901.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:—

I herewith submit the Librarian's twenty-ninth annual report. Below is a statement in detail relative to the various departments:—

The Cataloguing Department.

The Cataloguing Department, under the supervision of Miss F. Mabel Norcross, is confronted with a steadily increasing amount of regular work each year. Last May, after the expiration of three years' work, our new card catalogue was completed. This statement, of course, is meant only in a relative sense, for a card catalogue is never finished. Much work will still continue to be put into this catalogue from time to time. A library is never thoroughly catalogued until all the contents of all its books are practically available to the public through its card catalogue. Many of the contents of valuable books remain unknown, even when the books are catalogued under subject, author, and title. The work of cataloguing the contents of important books is one that might occupy much of the attention of our Cataloguing Department if there were sufficient time for such work. This is a need that has been felt in many libraries for a long time. It seems that there will soon be a possible opportunity for work of this nature to be done. The National Library of Congress is perfecting a project of co-operative cataloguing which, when carried into actual operation, will enable the cataloguer to devote much time that is otherwise employed to this necessary work. The cards of all current copyrighted books, and in fact most other works, are printed by the Library of Congress, and will be supplied to libraries at a price only slightly in excess of cost. When the cataloguer is thus relieved of the drudgery of this clerical work, much more time and attention can be bestowed upon a systematic building-up of a comprehensive and exhaustive catalogue.

During the past year our old card catalogue has been transferred to West Somerville Agency, with Mr. James Wilson at Davis square. Since its removal to this Agency, this catalogue has been brought up to date, and it is now an author, title, and subject catalogue of all the books in the Library published since 1895, with the exception of juvenile books from 1895 to 1899. This catalogue is greatly appreciated by the West Somerville community, and I wish that similar catalogues might be gradually prepared for our other agencies. This catalogue as at present housed is in an awkward and inconvenient case of heavy

drawers, and badly overcrowded. A moderate-priced cabinet with more portable trays should be purchased at an early date.

A compact, compendious list of selected books for the people who find it inconvenient to visit the Library is one of our pressing needs. A list of this sort is something that will be much needed by our delivery boys, if this delivery system attains to the dimensions which we hope for it. Such a list should contain the best fiction and the books most in demand in the other various classes of the Library. I should advocate bringing this list out as cheaply as possible, arranged by classes for convenience of reference. It should be given away only to actual users of the library, or sold for a nominal sum.

In addition to our general card catalogue, a complete catalogue of the books in the Reference Department has been finished, and is housed in a small cabinet in the Reference Room. The card catalogue for the Children's Room, upon which we have been at work for many months, is now very near completion. The Library now, as far as its card catalogue system is concerned, is very well equipped.

The list for the monthly bulletins each month is prepared by the cataloguer. Since September these bulletins have been printed by the Library Bulletin Company, of Boston, under an arrangement by which they are sent by mail directly to the homes of the people. Five hundred in addition are also printed for free distribution in the Library. This system, as far as can be learned, is very gratifying to the patrons of the Library. Much more work has been put into our bulletins of late than formerly. A compact review of many of the best books, either original or clipped from the standard critical publications, is now a feature of our bulletins.

In addition to the regular work of the Cataloguing Department, seven or eight hundred documents and pamphlets which have been in the Library a long time uncatalogued have at length been catalogued during the past few months. Miscellaneous gifts of books, reaching several hundred in number, from Charles W. Sawyer and others have also been catalogued.

Below are the statistics of books withdrawn from the Library, books added to the Library, and books bound by the Library during the year:—

Books Withdrawn.

Number of books worn out	880	
" " " lost by general readers	21	
" " " " in schools	9	
" burned on account of infectious exposure	24	
Total number withdrawn	934	
Total number of books withdrawn to January, 1901		4,600
" " " " " during 1901		934
Total		5,534

Books Added.

Accession number January 1, 1901	52,672
" " January 1, 1902	57,691
Total number of books added during 1901	5,019
Books new to the library	3,757
Duplicates	1,262
Total number withdrawn	5,534
Total number of books in the library	52,157

Binding.

Volumes rebound	3,122
Periodicals bound	213
Paper-covered books bound	35
Pamphlets	46
Total	3,416

Reference and Art Department.

The Reference, Art, and Americana Department, under the supervision of Miss Mabel E. Bunker, is a department of growing importance, increasingly used by the public. It is gratifying to note the use that is made of the Reference Room by the pupils of the schools. The increasing use of Poole's Index and the Cumulative Index makes greater demands upon our bound magazines. As these magazines are also largely called for in the general circulation of the Library, it is frequently impossible to look up references in Poole's because of the absence of magazines from the shelves. For this reason I would recommend the gradual purchase of duplicate sets of our most frequently-used magazines and reviews. Poole's Index is a very valuable work of reference, but its usefulness is largely nullified when the magazines and reviews to which it refers cannot be made available. A considerable amount of money has been spent upon the Reference Room for the past few years, and in order to keep it up to its highest standard of efficiency, considerable sums must be spent yearly. Encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, and, in fact, nearly all books of reference are brought out in new editions every few years; and these new editions must be purchased as frequently as they are brought out, or the Reference Room will become antiquated, and fall into disrepute with progressive scholars.

The Art Department is one of the growing departments of the Library. Many valuable art books have been purchased from the proceeds of the Isaac Pitman fund, and new additions have been made to our collections of photographs of the old masters. Some kind of an exhibition has been kept on view in the Exhibition Room at all times. In this connection the exhibit of the art work done in the schools must not be omitted. This work was secured and mounted by Miss Mary L. Patrick, supervisor of drawing in the schools, through the courtesy of the superintendent, Mr. Southworth. This work was very largely

examined by the public, and was a revelation to many people. The public at large, before this exhibition, were utterly unaware of the excellent art work that is regularly done by the pupils of our public schools. There has also been during the year an exhibition of the manual work done by the pupils of the Somerville Vacation school, under the supervision of its principal, Harry F. Hathaway. Much of this work done by young boys and girls showed skill of a high degree, deftness, and artistic taste. These school exhibitions will be continued, not only for the incentive they give the pupils of our schools, but for the gratification they afford the public.

Another exhibition of Somerville artists should be arranged at an early date.

Below is given the statistics of attendance in the Reference Room during the different months of the year:—

Date.	Number of Visitors.
January	1,650
February	1,490
March	1,432
April	1,515
May	998
June	1,885
July	927
August	611
September	1,064
October	1,623
November	2,050
December	1,517
Total	16,762

The School Department.

The School Department, under the supervision of Miss Edith B. Hayes, continues to do an excellent and far-reaching work. The teachers who use our school libraries are greatly pleased with the service, the children appreciate the privileges thus afforded them, and in many instances the parents are as enthusiastic readers of these school library books as the children themselves. I regard these books as one of the potent educational influences of the city. Miss Hayes has visited all the schools twice during the year, and some of them three times. In this way she has been enabled to learn intimately the wants of the schools; and the Library has in every instance attempted to supply these wants as far as the means at its disposal would permit. In fact, practically all the books asked for by the schools have been supplied. Many books of this nature have been bought from time to time during the past three years, and the Library is at present pretty thoroughly equipped for this work. I would recommend that during the coming year the night schools also

should be supplied with school libraries, the same as the day schools. In fact, the pupils of any of our schools, whether night schools or day schools, whether public, private, or parochial, are all children of our city, and they should all share equally in the privileges afforded by the Public Library. If, as I believe, the distribution of its books is the most important function of the Public Library, I see no valid reason why its books should not be circulated through the Sunday school, if any Sunday school should chance to be desirous of such service.

The number of volumes circulated through the schools in 1901 was 5,171. The number of special libraries sent to the schools was 100. The circulation of these libraries was 52,200. One hundred and thirty-three books were sent to the Vacation school for six weeks.

The Children's Department.

The Children's Department, under the supervision of Miss Anna L. Stone, is doing an excellent work. Below is given in detail the circulation for 1901 by months:—

January	7,790
February	8,242
March	9,171
April	10,750
May	8,304
June	5,884
July	4,847
August	5,397
September	4,772
October	6,743
November	8,460
December	6,826
Total	87,186

The Children's Room is one of the salutary educational influences of the city. It is a matter of regret, that, owing to the distance to be traveled, it is not available to our entire juvenile population. It is probable that the children in one-half the area of Somerville seldom visit the Children's Room, and there are doubtless hundreds, especially of the younger children, who have never visited it at all. This deprivation is not so serious as it would be if the children were not privileged to secure books through the schools. Still these distant children are not given the freedom of selection that the other children of the city are given, with the consequent education that comes from direct contact with books. Possibly this injustice, which has been considered unavoidable, might be remedied by making two or three of the schoolhouses in the more remote districts of the city distributing centres for juvenile books. Several hundred books should be sent to these schoolhouses, so that the children might be granted a somewhat wide range of selection. If this should

be done, it would relieve to a certain extent the pressure upon our own shelves in the Children's Room, which are already overcrowded.

The Children's Room is a most salutary influence as long as children remain children. But to retain children in the Children's Room after they have come to desire mature works is repressing nature and stunting and distorting intellect. We should try to advance our children from the children's department to the adult department as we try to advance them from the grammar school to the high school. They should not only be allowed to use the mature books of the Library, but should be encouraged in every legitimate way to do so.

I am glad to say that the Children's Room is now in possession of a beautiful clock, a Christmas present from the members of the staff.

Gifts.

The Library has received the following donations of books, pamphlets, and periodicals during the past year:—

List of Donations.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Adams Nervine Asylum		1	
Agricultural College		2	
American Humane Association		3	
Amesbury, Mass.		1	
Amiraux, Frank		1	
Armstrong, Mrs. H. B.	61		
Balch, T. W.	1		
Bartlett, Sarah S.		1	
Barton, Lieutenant William	2		
Borough of Manhattan		1	
Boston Transit Commission	1		
Bostonian Society		1	
Bowdoin College		1	
Brine, Eugene	2		
Broadway Congregational Church			68
Brooks, F. A.		1	
Brooks, Geraldine	1		
Brown, David H.		1	
Brown University	1		
Clarke, Col. Albert	1	1	
Coats, Rev. Orville	1		
Co-operative Publishing Co.	1		
Dana, Richard H.		1	
Daniels, J. F.			1
Dolbear, Prof. A. E.	14	47	
Dow, George F.		1	
Dunham, Mrs. H. M.			543
Ellis, George H.	1		
Fales, Albert	1		
Field, Marshall	2		
Fleischner, Otto		1	
Free Public Library Commission		1	
Galpin, Barbara	1		
Glines, Hon. Edward	2		
Goldsmith, B. W.	16		
Hanscom, Dr. Sanford	1		
Harmer, J. T.	20		20
Harvard University		1	
Haskell, A. L.	1		
Hayden, J O.	1		
Hill, F. H.		1	152
Hopkins, James A.	1		
Imperial Society	1		
Indian Rights Association		3	
Insurance Library Association		1	
Johnson, Charles A.		15	
Knopf, Dr. S. A.	1		
Lincoln, Heroeg A.	22	232	
Lowe, Mrs. Martha P.	3	6	
Luce, Hon. Robert			318
Lynn Historical Society	4		
McCall, Hon. S. W.	1		
Macy, J. C.	1	1	
Carried forward	166	326	1,102

LIST OF DONATIONS. — Continued.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Brought forward	166	326	1,102
Macy, J. E.		2	
Marvin, William J.	36		
Massachusetts	14	3	
Massachusetts Abstinence Society	2	2	
Metropolitan Water Board	1		
Michigan Board of Trade		1	
Mixter, C. S.	6		
Moody, James H.	1		
Moore, Mrs. C. E.	15		
Moore, Prof. John		1	
Murray, T. H.	1		
Newcomb, Mrs. Emma	2		
New Hampshire Library Commission		1	
Norcross, F. Mabel	4		
O'Malley, T. F.		1	
Peabody Institute		2	
Perkins-street Baptist Church		5	39
Pierce, F. C.	2		
Pillsbury, Albert E.	1		
Pratt Institute		1	
Public Libraries: —			
Alleghany, Pa.		1	
Beverly		1	
Boston		1	
Brookline		5	
Burlington, Vt.		1	
Cambridge		1	
Chelsea (Fitz Public Library)		1	
Cincinnati, Ohio	1		
Cleveland, O hio		1	
Concord, N. H.		1	
Erie, Pa.		1	
Everett		2	
Fitchburg		1	
Groton		1	
Hartford, Conn.		1	
Haverhill		1	
Lancaster		1	
Malden		1	
Manchester, N. H.		2	
Lynn		1	
Medford		1	
Milwaukee, Wis.		2	
Minneapolis, Minn.		1	
New Bedford		1	
New Haven, Conn.		1	
Newton		1	
New York City		2	
Newark, N. J.	1	3	
Niagara Falls		1	
North Adams	1	1	
Northampton		1	
Carried forward	254	385	1,141

LIST OF DONATIONS. — Concluded.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Brought forward	254	385	1,141
Public Libraries (Continued): —			
Northampton (Forbes Library)		1	
Paterson, N. J.		1	
Pawtucket, R. I.		1	
Pittsburg, Pa.		1	
Philadelphia, Pa.		1	
Portland, Me.		1	
Portland, Ore.		1	
Poughkeepsie		1	
Providence Athenaeum		1	
Providence, R. I.		1	
San Francisco, Cal.		1	
Scranton		1	
Springfield		1	
Syracuse, N. Y.	1		
Waltham		1	
Washington Heights		1	
Watertown		1	
Winthrop		2	
Woburn		1	
Reid, Whitelaw		1	
Rideout, Dr. H. L.	26		
Robinson, Warren J.	7		
St. Louis Mercantile Library Association		1	
Sawyer, Charles W.	136	46	329
Shepard, Charles I.		1	55
Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent Co.	2		
Smithsonian Institution	6	2	
Somerville Journal			52
Sprague, H. B.		2	
State Normal School	1		
Stearns, F. P.		1	
Swan, C. H., Jr.	1		
Thorpe, E. J. Ellery	1		
Tufts College		3	
United States	42	83	
University of Pennsylvania		1	
Walsh, J. J., M. D.		1	
Wellington, Amy	1		
Werner & Swasey	1		
West, Charles A.	1		72
Wilmington Institute		1	
Winona Educational Association	1		
Women's Auxiliary		5	
Wood, Henry	3		
Woodman, Mary A.	1	1	
Woods, John M.		1	
Young Men's Christian Association		1	
Total	485	555	1,649

General Work.

The general work of the Library, under the immediate supervision of Miss Adele Smith, the assistant librarian, is so organized that it goes forward with routine smoothness, and much is accomplished. The present year our Vacation Card system, adopted last year, was continued, and was highly appreciated by many who spent their vacations out of town. The past summer 215 cards were issued, on which 1,250 books were taken out, 945 of which were fiction, and 305 other works. The general circulation figures of the year are as follows:—

January	22,919
February	23,408
March	25,704
April	30,653
May	22,175
June	19,024
July	18,631
August	13,386
September	18,631
October	20,445
November	23,201
December	26,050
Total	264,227

Of this circulation 73½ per cent. is fiction, and 26½ per cent. other works. Below is given our circulation by classes, exclusive of fiction:—

General work	6,093
Philosophy	935
Religion	1,226
Sociology	1,779
Philology	190
Natural science	2,055
Useful arts	1,847
Fine arts	3,879
Literature	7,578
History	11,722
	37,304
Children's room	19,057
Schools—Specials, etc.	13,433
Total	69,794

Circulation of Children's Room.

Fiction	68,983
Other works	19,057
Total	88,040

PERCENTAGE.

Fiction	78 2-7
Other works	21 5-7

By a recent vote of your Board, a four-day limit for books in great current demand was adopted. No considerable criti-

cism of this system has been brought to my attention, and the reading public as a whole is pleased with the arrangement, as it nearly doubles the chances of every reader to secure the book desired. The problem of supplying the public with current fiction will always be a troublesome one. Many poor novels are written; but there are always a few excellent ones brought out each year. It seems to me that as soon as it can be determined which ones are the good ones, a goodly number of duplicates should be bought. On the contrary, as soon as it can be determined which are the worthless or mediocre novels, none should be bought at all. It is better to give the public as many good novels as it desires than to give it a miscellaneous choice of the good, the indifferent, and the worthless.

The New Stack Room.

The most important event in the history of the year is the completion of our new stack room. This is now finished, the books have been for some time moved into it, the books in the old stacks have been re-arranged, and we are now ready for the adoption of the new experiment of free access. This cannot be done without serious embarrassments to us. The whole routine of the Library will be revolutionized, and it is probable that many vexatious incidents will attend the new departure. But the new regime will be of incalculable benefit to the public, and I feel that no other action ever taken by the Library, with the possible exception of the removal of the age limit and the opening of the children's room, can have been more productive in salutary results than this new action is sure to be.

Binding.

The present year $1,454.21 were spent for binding. With free access to the shelves and with the natural increase of circulation this item of expense is sure to increase and probably with rapidity. The time will probably arrive at no distant date when it will be feasible to establish a bindery of our own in connection with the Library. The outfit for such a plant is not expensive, and should be a part of the equipment of all libraries doing a large business. With a bindery plant, working under the management of the Library, our books could be inspected with greater frequency and repaired more promptly. They could be kept in a neater and sounder condition. While I do not urge this recommendation for immediate adoption, I think the time has arrived for carefully investigating the matter with a view to future action.

House Delivery.

It still seems to me that the energies of the Library should be applied with even greater persistency to pushing the circulation of its books. To quote what I have already said in another place, "The population of Somerville in round numbers is 62,000.

Let us estimate roughly that there are 50,000 persons capable of reading (for the little tots of five and six are taking out our picture books). If each of these 50,000 readers should take out but one book a week it would bring our circulation up to 2,600,000. This would be more than twice the circulation of the Boston Public Library, one of the best public libraries in the world. This circulation would double Boston's circulation, and would probably exceed the circulation of any public library on earth. It would be unparalleled, phenomenal, and, under present conditions, unthinkable. But yet it would be only one book a week for each reading member of the population. But the condition of library affairs is now such that one book a week is an unparalleled, inconceivable, and utterly unthinkable thing. If one book in two weeks were circulated by the Somerville Library then we should have a circulation of 1,300,000; and even this would be an unparalleled and utterly unthinkable thing. If one book in three weeks were circulated, then we should have a circulation of 866,666. Even this would be an unparalleled and unheard of circulation for a city of our size, and, I am inclined to think, even this, too, would be unthinkable. Now if it seems an almost impossible and unattainable thing for a public library to circulate one book in three weeks to every reading member of its community, it is really time for libraries to set before them higher standards of possibilities.

"But the Somerville Public Library is at present circulating about one book in ten weeks to each member of its reading population. Counting the whole number of our population we are circulating about one book in twelve weeks. Now we have a really large circulation as circulations go, but is a library that gives out a book once in three months to each member of its population doing the very best it can for its community? It seems to me the answer must be a loud negative." And I am very glad that the initiatory steps have been taken by this Library which I hope, in time, will improve this condition of affairs. I allude to the house-to-house delivery of books. This question has been before your Board for some time. It was found, after careful investigation, that it was inexpedient to have these books delivered by team; and a short time ago the Librarian was authorized to employ boys for the purpose, these boys to receive two cents a book for each book delivered. Already fifteen boys have been assigned to fifteen different sections of the city. The work has simply been organized, but not developed; and it is too early to give definite statistics. But enough has been learned from this experiment already to fully warrant us in adopting it. The patrons of these boys are largely people who have not used the Library hitherto. Many of them had never visited the Library, some of them did not know its location, and some were ignorant of the existence of the Library at all. I believe that one reason public libraries are not more used is because people

do not know there are such things. There is nothing very strange about this condition of affairs, especially in a city like Somerville made up so largely of new residents. Our delivery boys—unconscious little missionaries of culture—will very speedily make this condition of things impossible.

It will take time to establish this system on a good basis. The whole difficulty of the problem is to find the right boys. Our delivery boys are as good as the nature of boys will permit them to be; but it is to be expected that the right boy will not always be discovered the first time. It will be a series of experiments, and the fittest will survive.

General Statistics.

Below is the statement of the general work of the Library for the year:—

Volumes in the library	57,692
" added	5,019
Delivered for home use	264,227
" at West Somerville	18,530
" " East Somerville	6,840
" " South Somerville	4,935
" " Magoun square	1,079
" " Beacon street	4,430
" " Grammar schools	4,803
" from Children's room	88,040
Volumes circulated in school libraries	5,171
Number of Reference Room visitors	16,762
Art Department, photographs circulated	463
Cards issued	2,938
Books covered	644
Cash, Catalogues	$54 91
" Books	19 26
" Fines	411 55
Total	$485 72

Conclusion.

The machinery of our interior library management is now well adjusted and in good working order. The staff is in perfect harmony, working together for a common purpose. There is but little call for the devotion of more time to the elaboration of library detail. But the one great aim and purpose of the Library should be to reach more people. The whole public library movement everywhere is young, and a very large proportion of people have not yet been brought into relation to it. Our first great duty is to get good books. A second, but equal duty, is to get them read. The campaign of the future should be concentrated very largely to this end.

Respectfully submitted,

SAM WALTER FOSS,
Librarian.

Somerville, Mass., December 30, 1901.

30th Annual Report

of the

Trustees

of the

Public Library

of the

City of Somerville

Massachusetts



1902



Compliments of the

Trustees of the Public Library.

THIRTIETH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE

MASSACHUSETTS

FOR THE YEAR 1902.

SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT
1903

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
137187
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
1903

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

OF THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1902.

Trustees.

CHARLES A. WEST.
JOHN B. VIALL.
J. FRANK WELLINGTON.
CHARLES S. SOULE.
HOWARD D. MOORE.
IRVING G. HALL.
FREDERICK W. PARKER.
EDWARD C. BOOTH, M. D.
GEORGE W. PERKINS.

Officers.

CHARLES A. WEST President.
SAM WALTER FOSS Secretary.

Committees.

Building and Grounds—Viall, Perkins, and Hall.
Administration—Wellington, Soule, and Parker.
Books and Catalogues—West, Viall, Booth, Wellington, Moore, and Hall.
Finance—Perkins, Hall, and Parker.

Librarian.

SAM WALTER FOSS.

Assistant Librarian.

ADELE SMITH.

Cataloguer.

F. MABEL NORCROSS.

Assistant Cataloguer.

ESTHER M. MAYHEW.

Children's Librarian.

ANNA L. STONE.

School Librarian.

EDITH B. HAYES.

Reference and Art Librarian.

MABEL E. BUNKER.

Assistants.

MARY J. WARREN.
MARY S. WOODMAN.
FLORENCE D. HURTER.
BESSIE L. DUDDY.
NELLIE M. WHIPPLE.
ALICE W. SEARS.
GARDNER STACY.
DAVID COUNTWAY.
CHARLES A. PERRY.
F. STUART DEAN.

Janitor.

CHARLES A. SOUTHWICK.

PUBLIC LIBRARY ACCOUNT.

Receipts and Expenditures for 1902.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1901	$220 75
Dog tax	3,230 95
Appropriations	14,500 00
Fines, etc.	716 89
A. L. Cadwell (money refunded)	4 75
E. B. Hall	10 00
Total	$18,683 34

DEBIT.

Pay Roll for January	$1,260 19
" " " February	1,196 87
" " " March	1,580 15
" " " April	1,447 87
" " " May	1,420 84
" " " June	1,634 50
" " " July	1,034 03
" " " August	1,226 96
" " " September	1,229 44
" " " October	2,016 61
" " " November	2,358 88
" " " December	2,183 45
Balance	93 55
Total	$18,683 34

Isaac Pitman Poetry Fund.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1901	$85 64
Interest	40 00
Total	$125 64

DEBIT.

Books purchased in 1902	$37 12
Balance carried to 1903	88 52
Total	$125 64

Isaac Pitman Art Fund.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1901	$18 91
Interest	160 00
Total	$178 91

DEBIT.

Books and pictures purchased in 1902	$162 35
Balance carried to 1903	16 56
Total	$178 91

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To His Honor, the Mayor, and Board of Aldermen of the City of Somerville:—

The trustees of the Public Library beg to submit herewith their thirtieth annual report.

During the past year the work carried on by the Library has been virtually along the same lines adopted in previous years, but at the same time the continual growth of the various departments has called for new methods, and the Trustees are impressed with the necessity of providing additional room that the reading public may be served to the best advantage.

The Reference Department has developed rapidly during the past year, and is now used very largely by the pupils of the High and Latin Schools. That the Library is so conveniently situate to the school buildings is indeed fortunate as its usefulness is thereby greatly enhanced. The demand for books of reference from this source has very largely increased as the character and numbers of the books in the Library have become more generally known and appreciated by the teachers and scholars. It has been found necessary to duplicate many of the prominent works of reference and even then the demand has not been satisfactorily answered.

The School Department has developed rapidly. A special school librarian now devotes her whole time to the work of the schools, which she visits systematically, co-operating with the teachers in every possible way. A room has been fitted for her work, where books are arranged according to grades, and here she meets and consults with teachers and scholars. The work done by her department is greatly appreciated, and is of great value to the cause of education.

A system of co-operation with the Sunday Schools has been inaugurated. Five churches are already receiving one hundred books each, from the Library, and several more have specified their intention of using the library books at an early date. It looks as if this system might become very generally adopted. This method of service to the Sunday Schools has attracted wide attention, and several other libraries already have signified their intention to adopt a similar system.

The number of vacation cards issued during the summer months showed an increase over last year.

The Cataloguing Department has issued the printed cards furnished by the Library of Congress whenever they have been

procurable. This has resulted in a considerable decrease of labor in that department, and an increased efficiency of service.

Free access to all the books eligible to card holders was instituted in January last. This new departure meets with the universal approval of the public. Perhaps no act of the Public Library has been so popular or caused so much satisfaction to its patrons. The privilege granted was limited for a time, but as it became apparent that the opportunity of handling and examining books at leisure was a pleasure and a great help to the public in making their selections, all of the stack rooms were soon opened to the public.

A complete inventory has recently been taken of all of the books in the Library, by which it appears that less than one-quarter of one per cent. of the whole number of books catalogued are unaccounted for. This is particularly gratifying, as no inventory has been taken for several years, and speaks well for the faithfulness of the employees and the trustworthiness of the public.

Several exhibits of art work done by the scholars of the public schools have at times been on view in the Library. These exhibits attract more attention than any others, and exert a strong educative influence along artistic lines.

The circulation of books for home use continually increases, and the Library still maintains its position in this state as second only to that of Boston in point of circulation.

The Trustees take particular pleasure in again testifying to the value to the Library of our present librarian. He is faithful to the interests of the Library in every department, and ever ready with some new idea to advance its usefulness and increase its circulation.

The new methods and ideas that have been inaugurated are so successful that the Somerville Public Library is becoming known as one of the most progressive and up-to-date libraries in New England.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES A. WEST,

President.

December 29, 1902.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:—

I herewith submit the Librarian's thirtieth annual report. Below is a statement in detail relative to the various departments:—

The Cataloguing Department.

The Cataloguing Department, under the supervision of Miss F. Mabel Norcross, in keeping pace with the growth of the Library finds an increased amount of work. During the past twelve months the Library has purchased from the Library of Congress 8,300 printed cards at a cost of $58.59. None but author cards can be purchased in this way, and so a considerable amount of work is entailed upon the cataloguing department in the writing in of the subject and title headings, the shelf numbers, etc. In the present state of the service there are many cards that cannot be obtained from the Library of Congress, and many others, which can be obtained, but are obtainable only after considerable delays. A Library desirous of keeping its card catalogue fully abreast of its purchases is sometimes inconvenienced by these delays. But this Library of Congress service is a newly inaugurated system and is steadily developing toward a high state of efficiency. We have availed ourselves of this service to such an extent that we have purchased an extra set of all the cards furnished. This extra set we have laid aside and, in due course of time, we can employ them in some of the agencies. They will serve as a nucleus for a card catalogue similar to the card catalogue now in use at West Somerville. Perhaps such a card catalogue might be established in East Somerville during the coming year. Such a catalogue would, of course, be very incomplete, at first; but it would contain most of the new books—and it is for new books that the majority of the people who consult card catalogues are looking. With free access to the shelves the patrons of the agencies are really more in need of catalogues than are the patrons of the Central Library, who can freely examine the books themselves upon the shelves. Perhaps it would be wise to consider the feasibility of gradually installing card catalogues in all the successful agencies.

Below are the statistics of books withdrawn from the Library, books added to the Library, and books bound by the Library during the year:—

Books Withdrawn.

Number of books worn out	856	
" " " lost by general readers	18	
" " " " in schools	25	
" burned on account of infectious exposure	30	
Total number withdrawn	929	
Total number of books withdrawn to January, 1902		5,534
" " " " " during 1902		929
Total		6,463

Books Added.

Accession number January 1, 1902	57,692
" " January 1, 1903	63,002
Total number of books added during 1902	5,310
Books new to the library	4,227
Duplicates	1,183
Total number withdrawn	6,463
Total number of books in the library	56,539

Binding.

Volumes rebound	3,761
Periodicals bound	165
Paper-covered books bound	75
Pamphlets	39
Total	4,040

The School Department.

The School Department, under the supervision of Miss Edith B. Hayes, is doing a steadily increasing amount of work. Since the opening of the last school year, Miss Hayes has given nearly her exclusive time to the work. A room has been specially fitted up for her, lined with book-shelves sufficient to accommodate all the books at present demanded by the various school libraries. Since the beginning of the year 6,717 books have been sent to the schools. One hundred and forty-seven of the two hundred and forty teachers in the primary and grammar schools have been supplied with libraries of twenty-five books each. The High Schools have been supplied, with a few unimportant exceptions, with whatever books have been requested by the teachers. These teachers have suggested a large number of excellent books for purchase. Books thus recommended have, of course, been books of a high order and have been unhesitatingly supplied. In July, forty-eight books were sent to the Prospect Hill Summer School.

Miss Hayes has visited each of the twenty-five school buildings twice during the year. In one building, at the request of the principal, she talked with all the children, from the fourth grade through the ninth, and supplied them with lists of good

books suitable to their needs. Lists of books in the Library treating of the subjects studied in school and suitable for the children have been made out and sent to the teachers, whenever they have signified a desire for such lists.

The circulation through school boxes sent to the school has been 2,094. This circulation is now confined to the Morse and Knapp schools.

Miss Hayes is at present employed in making a complete catalogue of all the books contained in the School Department and also upon a graded list of books for children.

The Library has purchased a very large number of books for the school libraries during the past three years. As a consequence we now have a sufficient number of books on hand to supply the demands of the teachers when only twenty-five books are sent to each schoolroom. But twenty-five is an inadequate supply, and I would recommend that we still continue to purchase as many books as ever for this branch of our work, and to begin with the New Year to supply school libraries of forty books to a room. Even this number in many instances would not furnish a book apiece to the pupils.

The Children's Department.

The Children's Department, under the supervision of Miss Anna L. Stone, has been doing excellent work during the past twelve months. Since the opening of the general stack rooms to the public many young people who formerly flocked to the Children's Room have transferred their attention almost entirely to adult books. The maturity of the childish mind in literary matters is much more advanced than we seniors are apt to recognize. And, in fact, it is much better for a child to read books slightly above his comprehension than to stunt his intellect and arrest his development by reading books below his comprehension. Consequently, instead of being depressed we are somewhat elated to learn that the circulation of the Children's Room has decreased rather than increased since the opening of the stacks. The children have taken out more mature books than can be found in the Children's Room, and we feel like congratulating them on graduating from a primary to a higher grade in their intellectual development. The Children's Room is a magnificent adjunct to the Public Library as long as children remain children; but they should not be compelled to wear intellectual short dresses and knickerbockers after their sturdy minds have outgrown them.

The shelving capacity of the Children's Room has been increased more than one-half by the erection of a double-faced stack on the northern side of the room.

The circulation of the Children's Room by months is here subjoined:—

January	7,790
February	8,242
March	9,171
April	10,750
May	8,304
June	5,884
July	4,847
August	4,302
September	4,772
October	6,743
November	8,460
December	7,093
Total	71,444

Of this circulation, 79.05 per cent is fiction and 20.95 per cent other works. This high per cent. of fiction is due to various causes. The children obtain a large proportion of their "other works" from the numerous school libraries that are distributed throughout the city, and come to the Library for the sole purpose of obtaining fiction. Perhaps the term "fiction," at least in its obnoxious sense, ought not to be applied to the harmless story books and fairy tales, which are a natural and wholesome type of youthful reading. The story is well-nigh the only variety of literature that the young child can assimilate.

The Reference and Art Department.

The Reference and Art Department, under the supervision of Miss Mabel E. Bunker, has been increasingly used by the public.

Below is given the monthly attendance for the year:—

January	1,562
February	1,723
March	1,948
April	1,112
May	1,235
June	2,170
July	523
August	486
September	1,204
October	1,460
November	1,487
December	1,115
Total	16,025

There have been during the year seventeen Art exhibits in the Library, as follows: Albrecht Durer, Poster exhibit, Hawaiian Islands, Contemporary Masterpieces of French Art, French Art in Paris, Somerville High School Art work, Somerville Grammar and Primary School Art Work, Raphael, California, Autograph collection, Venice, Somerville Evening School work, Alaska, Greek and Roman Art, Siena, York.

Through the Pitman Art fund we are enabled to buy a considerable number of fine pictures and a few art books. Works of this kind are very expensive and the income from this fund is sufficient to purchase only a small part of what a good Art Department requires. A few excellent pictures of a high order of artistic merit would be a valuable addition to the walls of our Art Room. The Library would not be justified in purchasing such work from the public appropriation; but private generosity might find here an excellent opportunity for its benefactions.

The Americana branch of the Reference Department has not been neglected during the past year, and a considerable sum has been expended upon it. This money has been devoted very largely to the purchase of Maine and New Hampshire town histories.

An increasing amount of our appropriation should be expended upon our Reference Department. It is through this department that the Library finds an opportunity to do exclusively educational work.

It is gratifying to note to what an extent the Reference Room is used by the scholars of the schools.

General Work.

The general work of the Library, under the immediate supervision of Miss Adele Smith, the assistant librarian, has moved forward smoothly and an increased amount of business has been accomplished. Our Vacation Card system has been continued and has been increasingly appreciated by people who spend their vacations out of town. The past summer 274 cards were issued on which 1,371 books were taken out, as against 1,250 of last year. Of this number, 1,150 were fiction and 221 other works.

The general circulation figures of the year are as follows:—

January	23,969
February	24,546
March	33,708
April	23,777
May	22,178
June	24,199
July	16,584
August	15,080
September	20,155
October	21,386
November	24,206
December	27,118
Total	277,106

Last year the circulation was 264,227. Consequently, there has been a net increase of 12,879. Seventy-two and one-half per cent. of the circulation this year has been fiction, and 27½

per cent. other works. Last year our circulation consisted of 73½ per cent. fiction and 26½ per cent. other works.

Below is given our circulation by classes exclusive of fiction:—

General works	6,803
Philosophy	1,077
Religion	1,389
Sociology	1,893
Philology	223
Natural science	2,952
Useful arts	2,559
Fine arts	6,163
Literature	8,933
History	12,762
Children's Room	14,974
Schools, Specials, etc.	16,504
Totals	76,232

Below is the statistical statement of the general work of the year:—

Volumes in library		63,002
" added		5,310
Delivered for home use		277,075
" at West Somerville		13,321
" " East Somerville		5,421
" " South Somerville		3,722
" " Magoun square		326
" " Beacon street		2,393
" from Children's Room		71,444
" at grammar schools		2,341
Volumes out in school library		6,717
" " " Sunday Schools		354
Number of Reference Room visitors		16,025
Art Department, number of photographs		400
Cards issued		3,032
Books covered		1,437
Cash, Fines	$529 72	
" Books	114 03	
" Finding lists	6 40	
" Telephone	3 20	
Total	$653 35	

Free Access.

Beginning with the first day of January, 1902, all the books of the Library intended for circulation have been free of access to the public. No act of the Library has probably ever been received with such favor as this. It is no exaggeration to say that this act has increased the usefulness of the Library two-fold.

Sunday School Libraries.

By a vote of your Board in September the librarian was authorized to loan books to the various Sunday schools of the city

that might be desirous of such service. A letter was accordingly prepared and sent to the pastor of every church in Somerville, offering books to the various Sunday schools of the city up to the number of 100. Already five Sunday schools, the Winter-Hill Congregational, the Winter-Hill Universalist, the Prospect-Hill Congregational, the Union-Square Baptist, and the First Methodist church, have accepted this service. The Sunday schools select excellent books, and through their agency the Library can be instrumental in getting a large number of inspiring, helpful, and really meritorious books before the public. Since the adoption of this Sunday school service by the Somerville Library, several other libraries have adopted a similar service.

House Delivery.

The Library still continues its house delivery of books. If the boy who engages in this work is energetic and possessed of some address he finds the work remunerative. The boys who have sections at some distance from the Library hold their customers permanently. It is difficult, however, to hold customers who live within easy reach of the Library. During the year there have been delivered by our boy carriers books to the number of 7,990.

Binding.

During the year $1,838.41 were expended for binding. As the Library is increasing at the rate of about 6,000 books a year, as a natural consequence the binding required must naturally increase in like ratio. The folly of a cheap class of binding grows more and more apparent. Books sent out by the publishers, in too many instances are wretchedly bound. These bindings sometimes utterly collapse within a few weeks. Publishers' bindings are frequently so notoriously worthless that an organized refusal to buy such bindings on the part of the libraries of the country might be a wholesome measure. But the Public Library should not imitate the publishers in the cheap nature of its bindings. Strong, durable, and as far as possible artistic bindings should be insisted on. It was thought inexpedient by your Board to establish a bindery of our own at present, in connection with the Library, and the time has not yet arrived, perhaps, when in the interest of economy this bindery should be established. But our expense for binding is sure to increase probably at the rate of about $400 a year. If this prediction shall be found a true one it will not be many years before such a bindery can be justified on the score of economy.

Inventory.

During the summer months an inventory of the complete Library was taken. This work was a long and arduous one, and

was the first thorough inventory that has been made for a period of several years. As a result of this inventory we discovered that 199 books were missing from the Children's Room, 116 fiction, nineteen picture books, and sixty-four other works. It must be remembered that no inventory of the Children's Room has been taken for a period of three years, and that during that time the collection has been subjected to two removals. From the general Library fifty-nine books have been found missing, twenty-eight fiction and thirty-one other works. The total number of books found missing from the entire Library is 258. When it is considered that the Library contains about 60,000 volumes, with a circulation upwards of 270,000 a year, and that no complete previous inventory has been taken for three years, this number is a remarkably low one.

Gifts.

The Library has received the following donations of books, pamphlets, and periodicals during the past year:—

List of Donations.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Adams, Mrs. C. B.	1		
Adriance Memorial Library		1	
Agricultural College	1		
Aguilar Free Library Society		2	
American-Irish Historical Society		1	
American Museum of Natural History		2	
Amherst College		1	
Barnard, Charles N.	1		
Bates, Wm. W.		1	
Boston Book Co.			3
Boston Transit Commission	1		
Bostonian Society		1	
Cambridge, Mrs. Lucetta	3	4	
Chase, Wilfrid E.		1	
Chicago and Northwest Railway Co.	1		
Clark, Gordon	1		
Clarke, Col. Albert		1	
Davis, Walter A.	1		
Drake, Mrs. A. C.	2		
Fryer, T. T.	1		
Glines, Hon. Edward	3	1	
Goldsmith, Benjamin W.	5		
Gordon, G. A.		1	
Goss, Ernest C.			187
Haines, A. C.	1		
Harvard University	1	1	
Hayes, Lydia Y.	2		
Herbert, John			40
Henry, W. E.		1	
Home Market Club		2	
Hubbard, Orrin		*91	
Kaan, Frances	8		
Libbey, L. M.	16		
Library of Congress	4	1	
Lincoln, George A.	15	80	
Lowell Textile School		1	
McClure, Phillips & Co.	1		
Makechnie, Horace P.		2	
Massachusetts	22	5	
Massachusetts Abstinence Society		2	
Massachusetts State Library		1	
Metropolitan Water Board	1		
Monotuck Silk Co.	1		
Morill, Ferdo			113
Mount Auburn Cemetery		1	
National Educational Association	1	1	
New England Historical Genealogical Society	1		
New Hampshire Library Commission			2
New York State College of Forestry		4	
New York University		1	
Nickerson, F. R.			400
Carried forward	95	211	745

* Photos.

LIST OF DONATIONS.—Continued.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Brought forward	95	211	745
Peabody Institute		2	
Perkins Institute		1	
Perry, Charles W.		1	
Piper, James H.	2		
Public Libraries:—			
Arlington (Robbins Library)		1	
Atlanta, Ga. (Carnegie Library)		1	
Baltimore (Enoch Pratt Library)		1	
Boston	2	2	12
Bradford, Pa. (Carnegie Library)		1	
Brockton		1	10
Brookline		1	4
Brooklyn, N. Y.		3	
Cambridge		1	9
Chelsea		1	
Cleveland, Ohio		1	
Clinton (Bigelow Library)		1	
Concord, Mass.		1	
Concord, N. H.		1	
Dayton, Ohio		1	
Detroit, Mich.		2	
Dover, N. H.		1	
Everett (Parlin Library)		1	
Fall River		1	
Fitchburg		1	6
Groton		1	
Hagerstown, Maryland		1	
Hartford, Conn.		1	
Haverhill		1	2
Hyde Park		1	
Jersey City, N. J.		1	1
Lancaster, Mass.		1	
Los Angeles, Cal.		1	
Ludlow, Vt. (Fletcher Library)		1	
Lynn		1	6
Madison, Wis.		1	
Manchester, N. H.		1	8
Medford		1	3
Minneapolis, Minn.		1	
Natick		1	
New Bedford			8
New Haven, Conn.		1	8
Newington, N. H.		1	
Newton	1		
New York City			12
Newark, N. J.		1	6
Niagara Falls		1	
North Adams		1	
Northampton		1	
Northampton (Forbes Library)		1	
Norwich, Conn. (Otis Library)		1	2
Paterson, N. J.		1	
Carried forward	100	263	842

LIST OF DONATIONS. — Concluded.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Brought forward	100	263	842
Public Libraries (Continued): —			
Philadelphia, Pa.		1	
Pittsburg, Pa. (Carnegie Library)		1	
Portland, Me.		2	
Providence, R. I.		1	12
Quincy (Thos. Crane Library)		1	
St. Louis, Mo.		4	
Salem		1	10
San Francisco, Cal.		1	6
San Jose, Cal.		2	
Scranton		1	
Springfield		1	6
Syracuse, N. Y.		1	
Taunton		1	
Wakefield		1	
Waltham			1
Watertown		1	
Westborough, Mass.		1	
Weymouth (Tufts Library)		2	
Winthrop		1	
Woburn		1	
Putnam, G. P.	1		
St. Louis Mercantile Library Association		1	
Sanborn, F. B.	2		
Simmons College		1	
Smithsonian Institution	4	4	
Smyth, G. H.	1		
Society Prevention Cruelty to Animals	3	1	
Soldiers' Home		1	
Somerville	1		
Southworth, Gordon A.		1	
Sprague, H. B.		1	
Stone, E. A.	2		
Tabor Academy		1	
Tufts College		2	
United States	99	88	
University of Pennsylvania		1	
West, Charles A.	1		
White, James T., & Co.		1	
Wilmington Institute		1	
Wisconsin Free Library Commission		1	
Wyatt, Mary L.	1		
Total	215	393	877

Recommendations.

There is much criticism directed to public libraries on account of the disproportionate amount of fiction circulated by them. It is not easy to reduce the absolute amount of fiction so circulated. But I believe the relative amount can be considerably reduced by a generous purchase of duplicates in the other classes of literature. The time has gone by when a public library should rest satisfied with one copy of a standard work. It should frequently have many copies and make it its business to see that they are circulated. Good books of actual intrinsic merit are not only welcome but eagerly requested by the schools. If fifty copies of a book (not a text-book) are needed by the schools the Library should purchase them—not reluctantly, but with delight. If the various Sunday schools will circulate books that are real literature the Library should see to it that their demands are supplied. Whenever a book can be easily replaced I think it should never be withheld from a public school, a Sunday school, an agency, or a club, simply because we happen to have but one copy on our shelves. Furnish, upon the asking, the single copy to the asker; and hasten to buy another copy, in readiness for the next asker. This method has been largely adopted in connection with our school work for the past three years and already we have a sufficient number of duplicate books to supply the demands made upon us by the teachers. In the ideal Library the same condition of affairs should exist in relation to all readers, of course with the exception of fiction readers. The time will shortly come when it will be a disgrace to a library not to be able to supply its patrons with any of the standard histories, biographies, essays, and poetry, for the reason that none are on the shelves. Only an insignificant fraction of the total current output of books can be purchased by any public library. But the standard books that have been tested, that have survived because they are fittest to survive, are not innumerable, and should be duplicated in a public library to such an extent that the demand for them may be fully supplied. This cannot be done at once; but it should be our aim to do it as soon as the means at our disposal will permit. During the past five years the energies of the Library, and a goodly proportion of its funds, have been directed toward the establishment of many improvements and innovations. Among some of the things accomplished may be mentioned: A new addition to the Library building doubling its capacity, a reference room open at all hours, a newspaper room, a Children's Room, a specially organized School Department, a new complete card catalogue for the general Library, an approximately complete catalogue of all the books purchased since 1895 for the West Somerville branch, a home delivery of books, a system of book delivery to the Sunday schools, a system of free access to all the books of the Library. Thus most of the work planned and the improvements projected five years ago have been accomplished.

The machinery of the Library is fairly complete and in good working condition; and there is but one great aim that I would now urge, and that is, that the Library be made as quickly as possible able to supply all calls made upon it for the really good books in all classes of literature. This, I think, can be done in the space of three years by carefully watching and tabulating the demands of the public, and then promptly duplicating all books of excellence whenever they are called for, and are not found "in." This will take time and considerable money, but it will add tremendously to the efficiency and usefulness of the Library, and will be worth all the time and money it will cost. We have no new and expensive innovations remaining to be put in operation; the improvements we projected have been accomplished. For a time, now, it seems to me, we would do well to concentrate our energies upon the building up of a library that will promptly satisfy the demands of its public as far as all books of real excellence are concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

SAM WALTER FOSS,

Librarian.

31st Annual Report

of the

Trustees of the Public Library

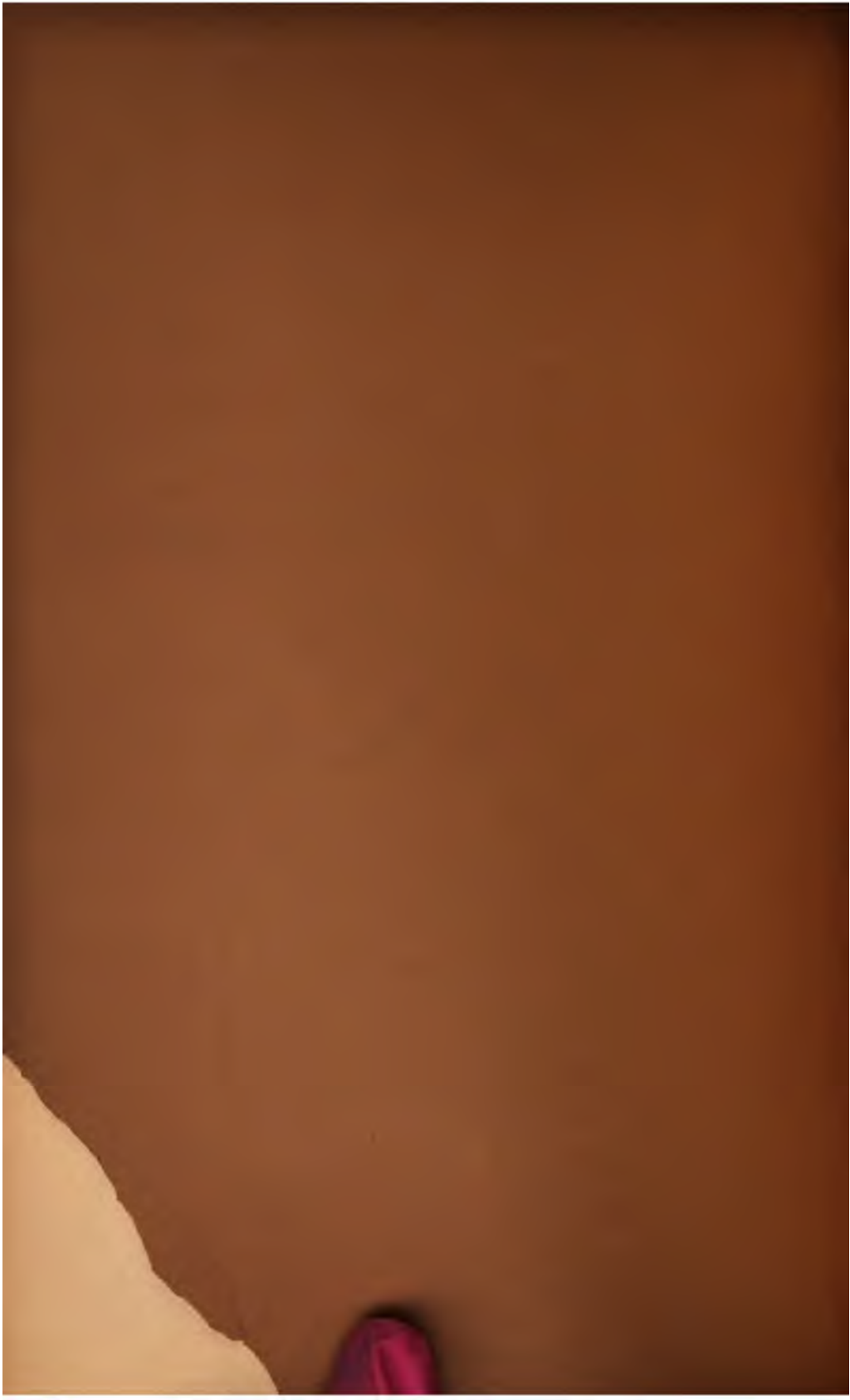
of the

City of Somerville

Massachusetts

1903

PUBLIC LIBRARY
F 151640



Compliments of the

Trustees of the Public Library.

THIRTY-FIRST

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library

OF THE

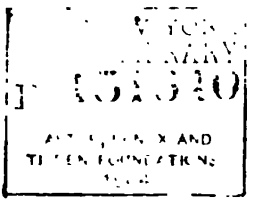
CITY OF SOMERVILLE

MASSACHUSETTS

FOR THE YEAR 1903.



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT
1904.



PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

OF THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1903.

Trustees.

CHARLES A. WEST.
EDWARD C. BOOTH, M. D.
GEORGE W. PERKINS.
JOHN B. VIALL.
J. FRANK WELLINGTON.
CHARLES S. SOULE.
HOWARD D. MOORE.
IRVING G. HALL.
FREDERICK W. PARKER.

Officers.

CHARLES A. WEST President.
SAM WALTER FOSS Secretary.

Committees.

Building and Grounds—Viall, Perkins, and Hall.
Administration—Wellington, Soule, and Parker.
Books and Catalogues—West, Viall, Booth, Wellington, Moore, and Hall.
Finance—Perkins, Hall, and Parker.

Librarian.

SAM WALTER FOSS.

Assistant Librarian.

ADELE SMITH.

Cataloguer.

ESTHER M. MAYHEW.

Assistant Cataloguer.

EDITH B. HAYES.

Children's Librarian.

ANNA L. STONE.

School Librarian.

MARY J. WARREN.

Reference and Art Librarian.

MABEL E. BUNKER.

Assistants.

MARY S. WOODMAN.
FLORENCE D. HURTER.
BESSIE L. DUDDY.
NELLIE M. WHIPPLE.
ALICE W. SEARS.
FLORENCE M. BARBER.
GARDNER STACY.
CHARLES A. PERRY.
F. STUART DEAN.
S. TRUMAN CUSHING.

Janitor.

CHARLES A. SOUTHWICK.

PUBLIC LIBRARY ACCOUNT.

Receipts and Expenditures for 1905.

CREDIT.

Appropriation	$14,500 00
Dog tax	4,105 14
Commissioner public buildings	7 00
Fines, etc.	746 08
Total	$19,358 22

DEBIT.

Books and periodicals	$6,158 45
Binding	1,996 96
Cards	76 40
Printing	475 75
Stationery	61 03
Salaries	9,388 72
Agencies	465 65
Repairs	17 77
Express	414 63
Postage	30 00
Telephone	49 46
Supplies	21 27
Binders	4 90
Pictures	6 75
Insurance	135 00
Ice	7 30
Chart	15 00
Chair	7 00
Book case	8 18
Signs	18 00
Total	$19,358 22

Isaac Pitman Art Fund.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1904	$5 61
Interest February 1, West End Road Bonds	80 00
" July 1, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	80 00
" Dec. 31, " " " " "	80 00
Total	$245 61

DEBIT.

Books and pictures purchased in 1905	$161 16
Balance carried to 1906	84 45
Total	$245 61

Isaac Pitman Poetry Fund.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1904	$44 12
Interest February 1, West End Road Bonds	20 00
" July 1, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	20 00
" Dec. 31, " " " " "	20 00
Total	$104 12

DEBIT.

Books purchased in 1905	45 73
Balance carried to 1906	58 39
Total	$104 12

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To His Honor, the Mayor, and Board of Aldermen of the City of Somerville:—

The trustees of the public library beg to submit herewith their thirty-third annual report.

It has been the pleasure almost uniformly of this board to record in their annual report an increase in the number of books delivered for home use, and it is again their pleasure to record a substantial increase during the present year of over 40,000 volumes, or a total circulation of upwards of 391,000 as against 353,286 during the year 1904.

The Somerville public library still retains its position in the matter of circulation as second only to the city of Boston in the New England states. As near as can be ascertained by the librarian of congress, it is the twentieth in the United States in this respect, although the sixtieth in point of population. As stated in our previous report, such figures and comparisons are gratifying.

It is also a source of satisfaction that, notwithstanding the increase in circulation during the past year, the business of the library has been conducted without an increase in appropriation, but it must not be expected that this continual growth in the library can go on without a proportionate amount of funds are placed at its disposal.

The general support given to the library by the public must not in any way be discouraged, but, on the contrary, every facility should be given to our citizens, and every encouragement should be offered to them to increase the use of the library. As "the commonwealth requires the education of the people as a safeguard of order and liberty," this municipality should not be in the least backward in supplying suitable literature for the use of its citizens in sustaining and supporting the requirements of our commonwealth.

The public schools are among the foremost of the patrons of the library, and the circulation to the pupils is constantly and steadily increasing. The value of the reference books at their command cannot be overestimated, and during the past year the number of reference works has been materially increased in response to urgent demands. There has been distributed to the various schoolrooms in the city 89,998 books, as against 82,714 books in the previous year. The library supplies 157 schoolrooms with small libraries of usually forty volumes each, which is a very material aid in the general circulation.

There are also supplied 100 books each to ten different Sunday schools, which are gratefully appreciated.

The business done at the six different general agencies shows a very gratifying increase, on the whole; the agencies at West Somerville have increased in greater proportion, in consequence of the large increase in population in that section of the city. Your attention is again called to the importance of considering at no distant date the subject of providing more suitable accommodations to the citizens of West Somerville for the easier access to the privileges of the library. This matter has been frequently considered by the board, who are not only willing, but anxious to do something for the citizens of this section whenever the funds are placed at their disposal. We therefore again recommend the proposition for your serious consideration.

Our house-to-house delivery of books to the homes of people is still continued, to the usual satisfaction of the patrons.

The report of the librarian submitted herewith will furnish a complete record of the business of the library, which speaks for itself, and is an evidence of the faithful work performed by him and his able corps of assistants.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES A. WEST,
President.

December 26, 1905.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:—

I herewith submit the librarian's thirty-third annual report. Below is a statement in detail relative to the various departments:—

The Cataloguing Department.

The cataloguing department, under the supervision of Miss Esther M. Mayhew, has had another busy year. In order to still further simplify the cataloguing system and to gain much additional time, the accession book has been abandoned, all the data preserved in this book now being transferred to the cards of the shelf list. Considerable time and labor have been saved by this device, and no disadvantage is apparent.

A shelf list for the children's room has been prepared during the past year. All the departments of the library are now equipped with special shelf lists.

Below are the statistics of books withdrawn from the library, books added to the library, and books bound by the library during the year:—

Books Added.

Accession number January 1, 1905	75,173
" " " " 1906	81,519
Total number of books added during 1905	6,346
Books new to library	3,086
Duplicates	3,260
Total number withdrawn	9,280
Total number of books in library	72,239

Binding.

Volumes rebound	4,319
Periodicals bound	452
Paper-covered books bound	59
Pamphlets	40
Total	4,870

Books Withdrawn.

Number of books worn out	796	
" " " lost by general readers	38	
" burned on account of infectious exposure	20	
Total number withdrawn	854	
Total number of books withdrawn to January 1, 1905		8,426
" " " " " during 1905		854
Total		9,280

School Department.

The school department, under the supervision of Miss Mary S. Woodman, has done an increased amount of work. The relations between the library and the schools are very pleasant and, it is hoped, mutually helpful. Below are the statistics for the year:—

Libraries out	151
Volumes out	5,742
Volumes delivered during year	7,384
Circulation during year:—	
Fiction	43,923
Non-fiction	46,075
Total	89,998

These figures represent only a part of the work done by this department. The school librarian makes many visits to the schools, and by consultation with the teachers becomes better informed as to the needs of the schools. Some exhibit of work done by the school pupils is placed on view in the library every year. This year an exhibit of penmanship was held in the library for several weeks, under the supervision of Mr. Whitehouse, the supervisor of penmanship, who gave daily lectures. The various teachers of all the schools, with their scholars, visited the library in regular order. In this way the library aimed to come in direct contact with every pupil in the public schools. At this time every pupil was offered a library card; and thus the library personally tendered its good services to upwards of 10,000 pupils. In this way it reached many hundreds who had never before been brought in contact with the library. The amount of good done in this way is not easily calculated. If some scheme equally effective could be devised to bring all the adults of the city in direct contact with the library, it would be worthy of consideration.

Reference and Art Department.

The reference and art department, under the supervision of Miss Mabel E. Bunker, has done an increased amount of work. Below is given the monthly attendance for the year:—

January	1,499
February	1,552
March	1,440
April	792
May	871
June	1,021
July	637
August	465
September	748
October	1,243
November	1,217
December	853
Total	12,338

During the year there have been fifteen art exhibits, as follows:—

Rome, No. 3.
Rome, No. 4.
Switzerland, No. 2.
Birds of New England.
Amiens.
Switzerland, No. 2.
(Penmanship of Somerville pupils.)
Assisi.
Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, No. 1.
Modern German Sculpture, Pt. 2.
New Brunswick.
Florence, No. 5.
Local views—Beverly, Medford, Westford, Mass., Pawtucket, R. I., and St. Johnsbury, Vt.
Yachts.
Venice, No. 4.

Some works of importance have been purchased during the year, among which may be mentioned:—

Alexandre's Puvis de Chavannes.
Beach's and Thorne's American Business and Accounting Encyclopaedia.
Bell's Nuremberg.
Ditchfield's Picturesque English Cottages and Their Doorway Gardens.
Foster's Miniature Painters.
Great Events by Famous Historians.
Hodgson's and Eaton's Royal Academy and Its Members.
Jungman's Norway.
Klassiker Kunst, 4v.
Lippincott's New Gazetteer of the World.
Mason's Indian Basketry, 2v.
Mitton's Scenery of London.
Moore's Lace Book.
Palmer's English Lakes.
Ricci's Pintorrichio, His Life, Work, and Times.

Again the reference room is becoming painfully overcrowded. To relieve the pressure for a few years, low shelves might be built around the exhibit room, reserving space enough above them for the exhibition of pictures.

The Children's Department.

The children's department, under the supervision of Miss Anna L. Stone, still continues one of the most important departments of the library. Every effort has been made to beautify and enliven the children's room. Several attractive pictures have been purchased for the walls, and during the year many pleasant and educative picture bulletins have been exhibited.

The removal of the newspaper room from the proximity of the children's room has been a good thing in every respect. Much better order can be maintained in the children's room, and the newspapers, in their new quarters, are much more generally read than formerly.

A large number of duplicate books have been purchased during the year, and a large number should be purchased in the immediate future. The Sunday schools, in their selection of books, draw more largely from the children's room than from the rest of the library, and this necessitates a large purchase of juvenile works.

The circulation of the children's room during the year has been 70,184, of which 54,746 have been fiction and 15,438 other works. This of course does not represent the aggregate of juvenile circulation. It is probably not an exaggeration to say that the children take as many books from other parts of the library as from the children's room.

Agencies.

The agencies continue to do good service, though from the nature of the case their work cannot be entirely satisfactory to the public. Of course, it is impossible for the stores where these agencies are installed to give up a very large space to books from the public library. Although an increasing number of books are furnished the agencies, the public complains at the meagreness of our collections. More complaints come from the West Somerville agencies than elsewhere. A branch library in this section of the city would remedy many difficulties.

Below is a table of circulation of the different agencies during the year:—

Agencies.	Teele Square.	West Somerville.	East Somerville.	South Somerville.	Union Square.	Highland.
January	700	387	58	268	54	
Shelves	1,126	1,790	684		389	
February	667	375	46	205	17	45
Shelves	997	1,547	590			618
March	649	333	43	272	25	47
Shelves	1,180	1,521	584		509	808
April	642	303	39	315	16	32
Shelves	1,061	1,472	400		149	848
May	784	359	48	344	21	52
Shelves	1,213	1,788	644		348	623
June	530	298	24	217	19	26
Shelves	1,263	1,267	520		496	704
July	494	256	32	214	8	29
Shelves	1,058	1,276	477		385	639
August	405	322	22	294	21	30
Shelves	1,247	1,537	820		467	1,239
September	323	264	16	227	15	8
Shelves	1,044	1,367	455		332	1,105
October	508	412	18	266	33	8
Shelves	1,311	1,680	575		422	1,015
November	463	368	32	212	25	9
Shelves	1,167	1,319	607		389	1,284
December	428	323	38	230	19	18
Shelves	957	1,140	664		196	869
Totals	20,217	21,704	7,436	3,064	4,355	10,056

General Work.

The general work of the library, under the immediate supervision of Miss Adele Smith, the assistant librarian, shows a continued development and increase.

The general circulation figures of the year are as follows:—

January	36,904
February	34,102
March	37,037
April	33,563
May	39,761
June	29,072
July	22,707
August	25,648
September	20,730
October	38,943
November	37,787
December	35,529
Total	391,783

Last year the circulation was 353,286. There is consequently a net increase the current year of 38,497, or about eleven per cent.

Below is given our circulation by classes, exclusive of fiction:—

General works	7,493
Philosophy	1,608
Religion	3,419
Sociology	13,822
Philology	517
Natural science	10,218
Useful arts	3,699
Fine arts	7,077
Literature	15,398
History	32,862
Total of general delivery	96,113
Total of children's room	15,438
Total of specials	1,273
Total of other works	112,824
Fiction	278,959
Other works	112,824
Total	391,783
Percentage:—	
Fiction	71 1-3%
Other works	28 2-3%

Below is the statistical statement of the general work of the year:—

Volumes in library	81,519
Volumes added	6,346
Total circulation	391,783
Delivered from children's room	70,184
" " Teele square	6,593
" " " " shelves	13,624

Delivered from West Somerville		4,000
" " " " shelves		17,704
" " East Somerville		416
" " " " shelves		7,020
" " South Somerville		3,064
" " Union square		273
" " " " shelves		4,082
" " Highland		304
" " " shelves		9,752
" " Knapp school		1,246
Volumes out in Sunday schools		1,233
" " " school libraries		7,384
Visitors in reference room		12,338
Cards issued		4,902
Fines	$665 65	
Books	65 97	
Telephone	13 46	
Total	$745 08	

During the year 328 vacation cards were issued, upon which 1,947 books were taken out; 3,284 books were delivered to the homes of the people by our delivery boys. The following Sunday schools take books from the library, most of them in lots of 100 each: Bow-street Methodist, Park-avenue Methodist, Flint-street Methodist, Perkins-street Baptist, Prospect-hill Congregational, the Second Adventist, the Second Unitarian, the Spring-hill Baptist, the West Somerville Baptist, and the Winter-hill Universalist. Seventy-five books are also sent to the police station. The Somerville Boys' club has lately begun to receive books from the library.

Inventory.

During the year a thorough inventory of the entire library has been taken. Under our present conditions this is an undertaking that involves much more labor than a person unfamiliar with the library could realize. First it is determined how nearly the shelves correspond to the shelf list. When the shelves and the shelf list are first compared, of course a very large number of books are apparently missing. Then the discharging tray is examined to ascertain how many of these books are regularly charged to readers. After that the special list is examined to learn how many of the books are out with the holders of special cards. Then the agency list is examined to ascertain if the book is charged to any of our agencies. In the same way "To-day's Slips," the "Starred" books, the bindery slips, the bindery books, the reading room, the school libraries, the new book shelves, etc., have to be thoroughly examined before a book can be pronounced missing. It would be interesting, if possible, to know how long it takes to "run down" a book and ascertain whether it is lost or not. After all this process, the work is only begun. A second and a third inventory is taken, when the same process

is again repeated. During these subsequent inventories fully fifty per cent. of the books charged as lost are discovered, and if the inventories should be indefinitely continued, it is probable that we should indefinitely continue to find books.

Below is the statement by classes of the number of books missing in 1905:—

Magazines	12
French	5
German	2
General	0
Philosophy	4
Theology	5
Sociology	9
Natural science	14
Useful arts	9
Literature	26
Biography	11
Travel	14
History	18
Philology	4
Music	5
Fiction	172
Children's room	173
Reference, art, and Americana rooms	7
Total	490

In common with many librarians, I believe that the most careful inventory is sure to make an overstatement of the books lost. So many books are found months, and sometimes even years, after they have been declared lost that all inventory figures must be taken with much allowance. Considering the great number of books handled, the Somerville library's record of lost books is not a large one. None of the books lost are of much market value, and I do not believe that any professional thief is operating. There is no doubt that formerly books were sometimes taken from the library without being charged. Of course these books had to be counted as missing. A few months ago two sets of turnstiles were installed in the library. These turnstiles will make it much more difficult for a person to leave the library without having his books properly charged. It is hoped that they may practically break up the practice.

Growth.

The taking of the regular five-year census during the present year furnishes an occasion to compare the growth of the library and the growth of our population. Somerville is reckoned among the rapidly-growing cities of the commonwealth. In 1895 the population of the city was 52,200; in 1905 the population is 69,272, an increase of about thirty-two per cent. In 1895 the public library was closed for four months, in order to install

the new stacks. But, reckoning the circulation of these months the same as the circulation of the corresponding months of the previous year, the circulation of books would have been 96,998. In 1905 our circulation is 391,783, an increase of over 300 per cent. While the population has increased thirty-two per cent., the circulation of the library has increased upwards of 300 per cent. If the population of the city had increased as rapidly as has the circulation of the public library, we would now be a city of over 200,000 population. If the reading of good books is the standard of the community's intelligence, these statistics should be gratifying to our people. The library has increased correspondingly in other respects. In 1895 the staff consisted of librarian and three assistants. There are now twelve assistants. Since that date the reference room has been opened to the public, a children's department has been added, and a school librarian has been appointed, who practically devotes her exclusive time to the service of the schools. An addition doubling its capacity has been annexed to the library. The growth of the library cannot be expected to continue at this rate indefinitely, although there are at present no indications of its diminution. Such being the conditions of our growth, it is evident that at least a slight increase in our appropriation is needed each successive year.

The library has received the following donations of books, pamphlets, and periodicals during the past year:—

List of Donations.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Association of the Bar	1		
Bates College		3	
Boston Atheneum		1	
Boston Children's Friend Society		1	
Boston Economic Club		2	
Boston Five Cents Savings Bank	1		
Bostonian Society	1		
Bennett Fund, Trustees of	1		
Berry, Charles W.	1		154
Brown University	2	1	
Browning Club		1	
Cambridge, Mass.		1	
Chamber of N. Y. Commerce		1	
Chandler, Hon. L. B.		3	
Children's Institutions		1	
Cutler, S. Newton	4		
Dalton, Mrs. Charles X.	2		
Dartmouth College	1		
Dolbear, A. E.		1	160
Elliot, Charles D.		1	
Foss, Sam Walter	3	1	
Goldsmith, Benj. W.	7	2	
Gould, Levi	1		
Green, Samuel S.		1	
Hapgood, John G.	5		
Harvard University	2		
Hayes, Edith B.			34
Herbert, John			50
Hill, James R.	3		
Hillside Club		2	
Indian Rights Association		1	
Irish Reform Association		1	
Lake Mohawk Conference	1		
Library of Congress	4		
Lincoln, Charles P.		2	
Littlefield, George E.		1	
Luce, Robert	1	24	
Marshall, William I.	1		
Massachusetts	28	1	
Massachusetts Civic League		1	
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1		
Metropolitan Water Board	1		
Middlesex County	1		
Missouri World's Fair, Commission	1		
Moon, Robert C., M. D.		2	
Morse Institute		1	
Mount Auburn Cemetery		1	
Museum of Fine Arts	1		
National Educational Association		1	
Nebraska Library Commission		1	
Carried forward	75	60	398

LIST OF DONATIONS.—Continued.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Period.
Brought forward	75	60	398
Newcomb, H. T.	1		
New Hampshire College of Forestry		1	
New York Merchants' Association		1	
Peabody Institute		2	
Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society		1	
Perkins Institute	2	1	
Phillips, S. L.	1		
Pratt Institute		1	
Providence Atheneum		1	
Public Libraries: —			
Allegheny, Pa. (Carnegie Library)		1	
Arlington (Robbins Library)		1	
Atlanta, Ga. (Carnegie Library)		2	
Baltimore (Enoch Pratt Library)		1	
Beverly		1	
Boston		1	
Braddock, Pa. (Carnegie Library)		1	
Bradford, Pa. (Carnegie Library)		1	
Brockton		1	
Bromley, Eng.		3	
Brookline		1	
Brooklyn, N. Y.		1	
Burlington, Vt. (Fletcher Library)		1	
Canton		1	
Cedar Rapids, Iowa		1	
Chelsea (Fitz Library)		1	
Chicago, Ill. (John Crerar Library)		1	
Cleveland, Ohio	1		
Clinton (Bigelow Library)		1	
Concord		1	
Concord, N. H.		1	
Davenport, Iowa		1	
Dayton, Ohio		2	
Detroit, Mich.		1	
District of Columbia		2	
Erie, Pa.		1	
Everett (Parlin Library)		1	
Everett (Shute Library)		6	
Fall River		1	
Fitchburg		1	
Groton		1	
Hagerstown, Maryland		1	
Halifax, N. S.	1		
Hartford, Conn.		1	
Haverhill		1	
Hoboken, N. J.		1	
Hyde Park		1	
Jersey City, N. J.		1	
Lancaster,		1	
Lawrence		1	
Los Angeles, Cal.		1	
Ludlow, Vt. (Fletcher Memorial Library)		1	
Carried forward	81	118	398

increased demand. The greater proportion of these books are now seldom used, and if any plan can be devised to render their use more general, a decisive benefit to the community will result. I submit this recommendation to your careful consideration.

My thanks are due to the members of the staff for their faithfulness, and to your board for your kindly co-operation.

SAM WALTER FOSS,
Librarian.

December 26, 1905.



B2 B07

34th Annual Report

of the

Trustees of the Public Library

of the

City of Somerville

Massachusetts

1906

THIRTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

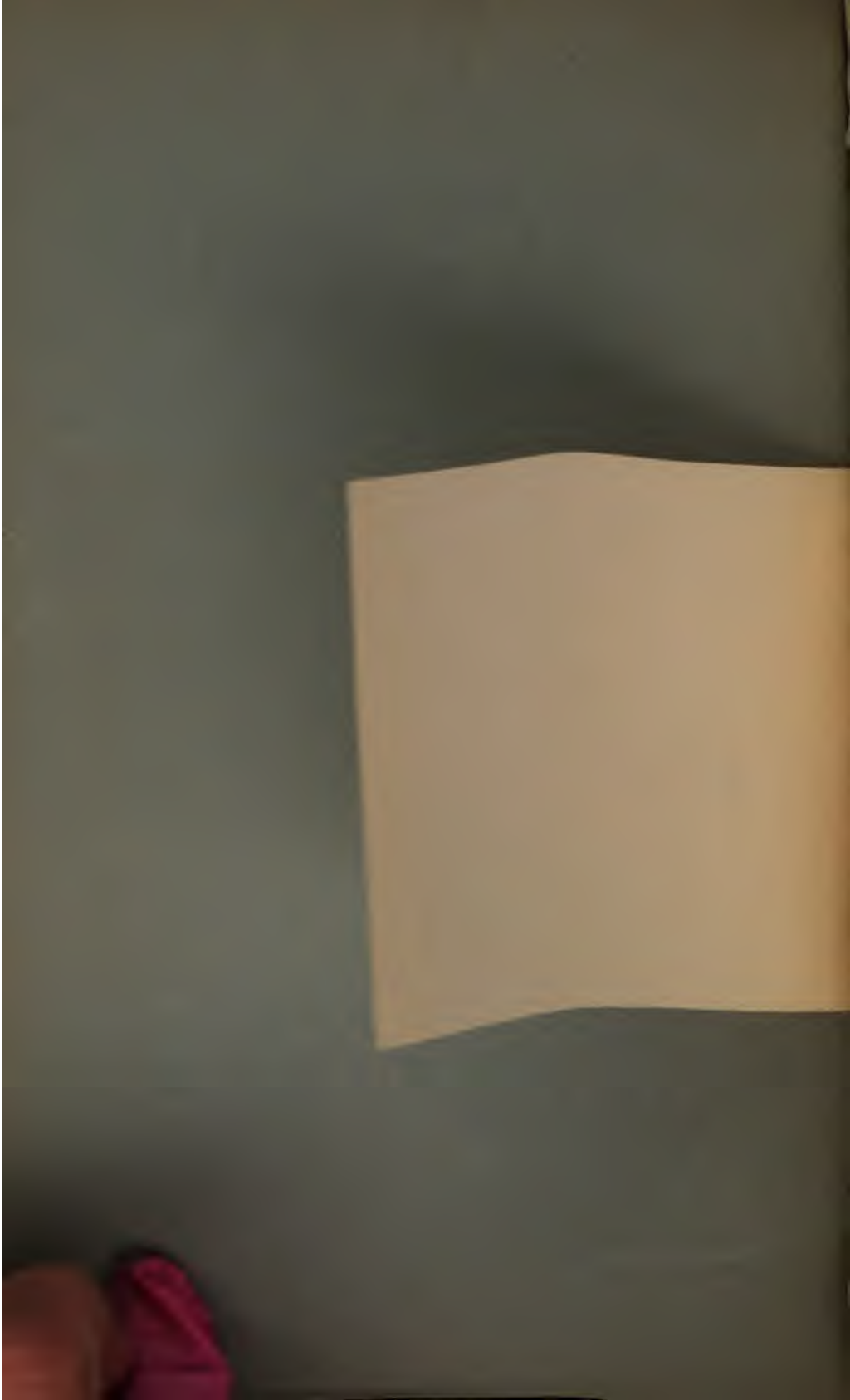
OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library

Compliments of the

Trustees of the Public Library.

SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT
1907



THIRTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library

OF THE

CITY OF SOMERVILLE

MASSACHUSETTS

FOR THE YEAR 1906.



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT
1907

191388

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS.

SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1906.

Trustees.

D C. BOOTH, M. D.
. VIALL.
IK WELLINGTON.
D D. MOORE.
IRVING G. HALL.
FREDERICK W. PARKER.
THOMAS M. DURELL, M. D.
WILLIAM L. BARBER,
REV. CHARLES L. NOYES.

Officers.

D C. BOOTH, M. D. President
'ALTER FOSS Secretary

Committees.

g and Grounds—Viall, Wellington, and Hall.
stration—Wellington, Parker, and Durell.
nd Catalogues—Booth, Viall, Moore, Hall, Noyes, and Durell.
: — Parker, Moore, and Barber.

Librarian.

SAM WALTER FOSS.

Assistant Librarian.

FLORENCE D. HURTER.

Cataloguer.

ESTHER M. MAYHEW.

Assistant Cataloguer.

EDITH B. HAYES.

Children's Librarian.

ANNA L. STONE.

School Librarian.

MARY S. WOODMAN.

Reference and Art Librarian.

MABEL E. BUNKER.

Assistants.

BESSIE L. DUDDY.
NELLIE M. WHIPPLE.
ALICE W. SEARS.
FLORENCE M. BARBER.
CHARLOTTE R. LOWELL.
RAYMAH H. SMITH.

Attendants.

CHARLES A. PERRY.
F. STUART DEAN.
SAXTON C. FOSS.
CECIL M. BARLOW.

Janitor.

CHARLES A. SOUTHWICK.

PUBLIC LIBRARY ACCOUNT.

Receipts and Expenditures for 1908.

CREDIT.

Appropriation	$16,000 00
Dog tax	4,214 39
West Somerville Branch	154 80
School Contingent account	2 48
Fines, etc.	863 20
Total	$21,234 87

DEBIT.

Books and periodicals	$5,007 18
Binding	3,680 53
Cards	108 95
Printing	631 71
Stationery	85 03
Salaries	10,109 16
Agencies	747 74
Express	391 33
Postage	17 00
Telephone	56 40
Supplies	95 70
Binders	41 15
A. L. A. membership	5 00
Index	3 00
Repairs	47 28
Insurance	191 25
Sundries	15 00
Balance unexpended	1 46
Total	$21,234 87

West Somerville Branch.

CREDIT.

Appropriation	$1,000 00

DEBIT.

Books and periodicals	$986 05
Express	35
Cards	11 95
Balance unexpended	1 65
Total	$1,000 00

Isaac Pitman Art Fund.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1907	$89 51
Interest July 1, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	80 00
Interest December 31, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	80 00
Interest accruing on deposits December 31	10 14
Total	$259 65

DEBIT.

Books and pictures purchased in 1908	$144 03
Balance carried to 1909	115 62
Total	$259 65

Isaac Pitman Poetry Fund.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1907	$64 92
Interest July 1, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	20 00
Interest December 31, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	20 00
Interest accruing on deposits to December 31	2 54
Total	$107 46

DEBIT.

Books purchased in 1908	$63 17
Balance carried to 1909	44 29
Total	$107 46

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To the Honorable, the Mayor, and the Board of Aldermen of the City of Somerville:—

Gentlemen,—The annual report of the trustees of the public library is herewith respectfully submitted.

We have appended to and made a part of our report the full report of the librarian, to which your honorable body is referred for the details of the year's work. It remains for us to emphasize some points in this report, and to consider the necessities of the library for the coming year.

The general work of the library has been conducted along the same lines as in recent years, without the inauguration of any new form of activity or the discontinuance of any important feature of the past.

The volume of business, which has been constantly increasing, has been considerably greater during the present year. The circulation has increased from 419,539 to 448,224 since our last report, an increase of 6.83 per cent. over the circulation of 1907, in comparison with an increase of 2.16 per cent. of the year 1907 over that of the previous year. In this general increase the circulation of fiction has proportionately increased, so that our usual percentage of about 70 per cent. of works of fiction borrowed remains unaltered.

While the work of the various agencies has continued without marked change as a whole, the circulation of the East Somerville agency has considerably increased, and that of the Highland district has fallen behind. These variations are probably due to transient local conditions and have no significance.

The loss of books from the library has been the subject of much solicitude since the inauguration of free access of the public to the shelves seven years ago, and such data as could be obtained showed losses too serious in point of numbers to be lightly passed over; and even the question of withdrawing the privileges of personally examining the books at the shelves has been seriously considered. A thorough inventory taken this year has, however, been reassuring in its results, and certainly for the present has put out of mind any thought of returning to the old method of closed shelves. This inventory shows that substantially 168 books in the main library, 148 in the children's department, and six in all other departments have been lost in the last two years. This loss, a third of which was in the class of fiction, is not greater than could reasonably be expected, occurring, as it has, during a circulation of eight or nine hundred thousand volumes and is trivial from a money point of view.

Whether this not unsatisfactory showing is in consequence of greater vigilance on the part of attendants, closer inspection

at the turnstiles, the use of the perforated stamp on the title page of the books, or the posting of cards of warning about the building, or whether it is due, in a considerable degree, to a more exhaustive inventory cannot be known; but it is natural to believe that all of these causes have contributed to the result.

We have received during the year a gift of $100 for the children's department by the will of Miss Frances A. Wilder, of Lancaster, who was for many years a faithful teacher in the public schools of this city. This is a small gift, to be sure, and to some it may appear unimportant, but it will place one or more good books in the hands of many children of Somerville each year as long as the library shall endure. And we wish to mark our appreciation of such an offering gathered from small savings, and equally, as if it were larger, we honor the public spirit of the giver.

The sum of $1,000, asked of your board a year ago for the purchase of books for the West Somerville branch library, that a proper equipment might be in readiness at the opening of the building, was granted, and during the year 1,347 books have been purchased, as favorable opportunity offered, which with the 1,134 duplicates that could be spared from the main library and the 1,450 books now on the shelves of the West Somerville and Highland agencies, making a total of 3,931 volumes, form a respectable nucleus for the new branch.

As it seems probable that the building will be completed and ready for occupancy during the coming spring, it becomes necessary that we should prepare and present to your board an estimate of the cost of maintaining this new addition to our activities. We have, therefore, caused various schedules to be made exhibiting the number of assistants required and the number of hours in which these assistants would be occupied, according to the times of day and the number of hours per week during which the branch might be kept open. After careful consideration the trustees have selected a schedule which promises satisfaction to the public, has due regard for expense, and is altogether the best suited to the requirements of the situation. By this schedule the library is kept open from one o'clock to nine o'clock P. M., for five days in the week, and from nine o'clock A. M. to nine o'clock P. M. on Saturday, with no Sunday opening; and the services of a librarian or custodian, two assistants, and one substitute will be required, the regular members of the staff working thirty-eight and one-half hours per week, including three evenings, and the substitute thirteen and one-half hours, with four evenings. In favor of these hours of opening, it may be said that the library building is least frequented during the morning hours, when, generally speaking, the children are at school, the men at business, and the women at home engaged in their domestic affairs. On the other hand, the evening demands on the library are very great, for this is a leisure season for nearly all, and is the only time when those actively

employed during the day can visit the library. The salaries of the staff, under this arrangement, approximate $1,300 for the first year. This presupposes salaries of respectively $300 and $200 for the two assistants. As, however, the assistants gain in experience and usefulness, these amounts will increase year by year, as in the case of beginners at the main library, until the maximum salary of $600 for assistants is reached. We estimate the total cost of maintenance by this schedule, exclusive of the care of the building, which comes under the charge of the commissioner of public buildings, and including $1,000 for the purchase of books, to be approximately $3,000.

For the maintenance of the main library for the coming year we ask for an appropriation of $17,500 and the dog tax. The reason for asking for this excess of $1,500 over the appropriation of last year is that we are alarmingly falling off in the purchase of books and that our binding bills have unavoidably greatly increased. This year but $5,000 remained for the purchase of books and periodicals after the fixed charges of the library had been met. The average expenditure for this purpose for the five years preceding the last was $6,450. The bill for binding for the present year was $3,680.53; in no previous year has it exceeded $2,400. This increase in the cost of binding is a natural consequence of the increasing use and age of our books. It is a penalty which we must pay for a great circulation.

The trustees have been importuned from time to time to establish reading-rooms in various parts of the city, especially in the vicinity of Union square. We believe that this particular part of the city is especially in need of the help of the library as supplementary to the work of the public schools; but we do not feel at liberty to ask for any appropriation for this object at this time, when the city is about to assume a new burden in library work. We estimate the yearly cost of maintaining a reading-room in Union square at $1,500, and the trustees would gladly enter upon this work if the city council sees fit to make an appropriation for the purpose.

We again advert to the faithful services of the library staff. Our librarian has just completed a period of ten years in the service of the library. His work has been eminently satisfactory to the trustees, and we know, also, from abundant manifestations that he has been steadily growing in the love and regard of the people of Somerville.

Respectfully submitted for the board of trustees,

EDWARD C. BOOTH,
President.

December 29, 1908.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:—

I herewith submit the librarian's thirty-sixth annual report. Below is a statement, somewhat in detail, of the work done by the various departments of the library during the current year:—

The Cataloguing Department.

The cataloguing department, under the supervision of Miss Esther M. Mayhew, submits the following statistics:—

Books Added.

Accession number January 1, 1908		92,891
" " " " 1909		99,196
Total number added during 1908:—		
Main library	4,958	
Branch "	1,347	
		6,305
Books new to library		3,251
Duplicates		3,054
Total number withdrawn		16,317
Total number in library		82,879

Binding.

Volumes rebound	6,530
Periodicals bound	563
Paper-covered books bound	174
Pamphlets	42
Total	7,309

Books Withdrawn.

Books worn out	2,008	
" lost by general readers	160	
" " in schools	8	
" burned per order Board of Health	90	
" missing by inventory	322	
Total number of books withdrawn	2,588	
Total number of books withdrawn to January 1, 1908		13,729
" " " " " during 1908		2,588
Total		16,317

9,664 catalogue cards have been purchased from the Library of Congress during 1908.

In addition to the routine work of this department, a complete inventory of the library was taken by the cataloguers. This inventory was much more thorough than any previous inventory. Both cataloguers spent the entire month of June in

this work, and one day each week during the months of July, August, and September. They were assisted more or less by other members of the staff.

We find that the total loss of books from all departments of the library for a period of two years has been 322. The last inventory taken in 1906 for a period of one year showed a loss of 725, or more than twice the number reported lost in the two years of 1907-8. A loss of 161 books a year from a library circulating nearly 450,000 books, with all the books free of access to all readers, is a very good showing, and demonstrates that the dangers of the free access system are largely imaginary. There is no good reason why people should steal books when they can get them for nothing without stealing them.

School Department.

The school department, under the supervision of Miss Mary S. Woodman, shows a progressive increase of business from year to year. During the past year we have been unable, through lack of funds, to purchase as many books for this department as its developing needs require, but we have endeavored to supply the demands of the teachers as well as our facilities will permit. Several hundred dollars should be expended upon this department at a very early date for the purchase of books constantly requested by the schools.

At the suggestion of Superintendent Clark, all the pedagogical books of the library have been segregated in the school librarian's room that they may be more conveniently consulted by the teachers. The library has a respectable collection of books of this nature, and it is hoped that a well-equipped and exhaustive department of pedagogical works, with the co-operation of the superintendent of schools, may be collected.

A printed catalogue of all the books in the school department would be a great convenience to the teachers.

Below are the statistics of the department for the year:—

Books in library	7,501
Increase during year	125
Libraries out	160
Libraries delivered during year	175
Volumes out	6,403
Volumes delivered	7,642
Circulation during the year:—	
Fiction	52,428
Non-fiction	67,764
Total	120,192

Reference and Art Department.

The reference and art department, under the supervision of Miss Mabel E. Bunker, has accomplished its usual amount of work during the year.

Below is given the monthly attendance for the year:—

January	844
February	1,007
March	1,449
April	777
May	804
June	563
July	408
August	598
September	814
October	864
November	949
December	1,032
Total	10,109

Number of visitors to the Art Room	209
" " " " Americana Room	186
Total	395
Number of volumes in Reference and Art Department	9,705
Increase during year	292

During the year there have been seventeen art exhibitions, as follows:—

Florence, No. 1, Piazza della Signoria and Piazza del Duomo.
Ireland, No. 1, Cork to Killarney.
Famous Pictures, No. 6.
Alinari photographs of Foreign Architecture (our collection).
Sargent's Works.
Florence, No. 4.
Greece, No. 1.
Greece, No. 2.
Japan, No. 3, Nikko.
Representative Art of Our Time.
The Hundred Most Eminent Men of All Time.
Norway, No. 2.
Shakespeare, No. 2.
Rome, No. 2, Pt. 1.
Rome, No. 2, Pt. 2.
Japan, No. 1.
Walter Crane, No. 2, Art for the Nursery.

Some of the books purchased during the year for this department:—

Brinton, Christian, Modern Artists.
Catalogue of the Gardiner Greene Hubbard Collection of Engravings.
Cortissoz, Royal, Augustus Saint-Gaudens.
Die Galerien Europas, 2v.
Gibbey, Sir Walter, George Morland, His Life and Work.
Gartmann, Sadakichi, Shakespeare in Art.
History of All Nations, 24v.
Klassiker der Kunst, 2v.
LeMoyne, L. V., Country Residences in Europe and America.
McClellan, Elizabeth, Historic Dress in America.
McKay, William D., Scottish School of Painting.
Meister der Farbe, 1904, 1905, 1907.
Modern Engineering Practice, 10v.
Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 8v.
Pennell, E. R. and J., Life of James McNeill Whistler, 2v.
Pope, C. H., Pioneers of Maine and New Hampshire, 1632 to 1660.
Ridpath, J. C., Great Races of Mankind, 8v.

The reference room is becoming uncomfortably crowded, and no space for the natural and regular development of the department is available. This matter should certainly be considered seriously during the coming year. If the building were sufficiently strong an upper story, reached by a winding staircase, might be added to the shelving around the room. There is some structural weakness in the room, however. But it ought not to be beyond the power of architect and carpenter to remedy this.

The Children's Department.

The children's department, under the supervision of Miss Anna L. Stone, has shown a healthy growth during the year. The circulation of this room has been 79,750, of which 64,185 have been fiction and 15,565 other works.

As I have recommended in previous reports great annoyance could be saved the patrons of our general reading room if a direct entrance to our children's room could be made from the outside. The noise and confusion in this room, caused by the passage of the children up and down the stairway, are a source of considerable vexation to the patrons of the room, and some emphatic complaints have been made.

General Work.

The general work of the library, under the supervision of Miss Florence D. Hurter, has grown in volume and has been carried forward with satisfaction.

The general circulation figures of the year are as follows:—

	Fiction.	Other Works.	Total.
January	28,045	13,129	41,174
February	27,040	13,421	40,461
March	36,648	18,198	54,846
April	27,890	12,990	40,880
May	26,465	12,344	38,809
June	27,123	10,532	37,655
July	19,412	3,496	22,908
August	18,176	3,514	21,690
September	22,348	5,981	28,329
October	23,957	10,902	34,859
November	26,847	12,472	39,319
December	32,273	15,021	47,294
Totals	316,224	132,000	448,224

Last year the circulation was 419,539; there is consequently a net increase the current year of 28,685, or about 6.83 per cent.

Below is given our shelf circulation figures (books delivered from library shelves):—

	Fiction.	Other Works.	Total.
January	14,932	5,473	20,405
February	15,010	6,006	21,016
March	22,091	8,394	30,485
April	15,371	5,220	20,591
May	13,665	4,545	18,210
June	16,167	4,810	20,977
July	13,394	3,220	16,614
August	12,718	3,250	15,968
September	14,879	4,514	19,393
October	13,204	4,908	18,112
November	14,749	5,464	20,213
December	18,001	6,457	24,458
Totals	184,181	62,261	246,442

Below is given our circulation by classes, exclusive of fiction:—

General works	9,016
Philosophy	1,571
Religion	7,572
Sociology	24,387
Philology	1,289
Natural science	15,347
Useful arts	5,411
Fine arts	7,135
Literature	16,348
History	28,359
Total of general delivery	116,435
Delivered from children's room	15,565
Total of other works	132,000
Fiction	316,224
Other works	132,000
Total	448,224
Percentage, fiction	70.55%
" other works	29.45%

Below is a table of circulation of the different agencies during the year:—

Agencies.	Teele Square.	West Somerville.	East Somerville.	South Somerville.	Union Square.	Highland.
January	245	254	17	142	14	20
Shelves	1,080	1,632	1,526		324	993
February	247	249	12	157	11	16
Shelves	1,173	1,675	1,597		332	935
March	376	423	16	197	14	13
Shelves	1,453	2,221	1,397		455	1,314
April	260	355	12	194	10	14
Shelves	1,080	1,695	1,468		367	981
May	241	370	11	172	9	15
Shelves	970	1,533	771		363	634
June	311	347	18	254	15	14
Shelves	1,132	1,836	1,055		444	1,127
July	218	301	14	121	9	10
Shelves	894	1,328	743		336	855
August	183	236	2	142	3	3
Shelves	1,027	1,384	704		363	753
September	213	279	6	234	9	10
Shelves	1,104	1,784	837		530	961
October	192	248	5	181	6	3
Shelves	1,004	1,495	754		365	855
November	184	269	2	194	7	3
Shelves	1,040	1,412	812		344	872
December	225	269	4	202	2	1
Shelves	1,162	1,669	891		341	916
Totals	15,984	23,264	12,674	2,190	4,673	11,318
Grand Total						70,103

Below is the statistical statement of the general work of the year:—

Accession number	99,196
Volumes in library	82,879
Main library	4,958
Volumes added, branch library	1,347
	6,305
Total circulation	448,224
Shelf "	246,442

Delivered from children's room		[illegible]
" " Teele Square agency		2,875
" " " " shelves		13,169
" " West Somerville agency		3,991
" " " " shelves		19,664
" " East Somerville agency		119
" " " " shelves		12,555
" " South Somerville agency		2,190
" " Union Square agency		169
" " " " shelves		4,564
" " Highland agency		122
" " " " shelves		11,196
" " Knapp school		1,390
Volumes delivered to school libraries		7,642
" " " Sunday school libraries		1,469
Visitors in reference room		10,109
Cards issued		11,173
Received, fines	$1,011 45	
" books	140 42	
" telephone	11 85	
Total	$1,163 72	
By sundry expenses	$300 52	
" cash to City Treasurer	863 20	
Total	$1,163 72	

During the year 426 vacation cards were issued, on which 2,420 books were taken out, 2,072 being fiction and 348 other works. Six hundred and seventeen books were delivered to the homes of the people by two delivery boys. Thirty-five sets of stereographs are now owned by the library. The circulation of these sets during the year amounted to 1,093.

The following Sunday schools take books from the library: Broadway Congregational, Flint-street Methodist, Perkins-street Baptist, Prospect-hill Congregational, Second Unitarian, West Somerville Baptist, Winter-hill Congregational, Winter-hill Universalist, Park-avenue Methodist, Second Advent, Highland Congregational, and the Bow-street Methodist. 1,469 books were delivered by the Sunday schools mentioned, of which 1,268 were fiction and 201 other works.

Books are also sent to the Y. M. C. A., the Somerville Boys' club, the Somerville hospital, and to the police station.

New Registration.

During the past five weeks the library has been making a new registration. This is a work of considerable difficulty, and a work requiring a long period of time for its completion. Of course in a growing library it is indeed never completed. It is a work, however, that ought to be done at least once in five years. Even when it is done as frequently as this our registration must necessarily carry the names of many people who are no longer borrowers of books, of many persons who are not residents, and a very considerable number who are dead. It is,

in fact, an impossibility to tell the exact number of the active users of the public library at any given time. The highest number under our old registration, which was a continuous registration for five years, was 28,619. The number of our present registration is 7,585. It would be safe to say, in view of these two figures, that the number of actual users of the library has never exceeded 20,000. Reckoning the population of Somerville as 70,000, then only two-sevenths of our population are ever actual card-holders at one time. The circulation of the Somerville public library is very high in proportion to the city population. But it is a significant fact that in a library with a very large circulation, as circulations run, only two-sevenths of the population are card-holders. The question is inevitable: Are public libraries really doing the good in their respective communities that they ought to do? It seems to me that a much larger proportion of the population ought to be reached.

Decreasing Expenditure for Books.

This public library has reached a critical stage in its history. The expenses are increasing at a much faster ratio than its income. I see no way, however, in which they can be materially decreased. The salaries are certainly moderate, and are indeed considerably less than in many other libraries doing a like amount of business. But the constant growth of the library entails a constantly-increasing expense. Thus the expense for binding in 1904 was $1,645.40. The expense for 1908 was $3,680.53, an increase in four years of $2,035.13. I see no reason why this ratio of increase should not continue for some time. As the running expenses of the library must be met, and as there is no item which can be materially reduced, except the item for books, it follows that unless there is a progressive increase of appropriation there must be a progressive decrease in the number of books purchased. And this has actually been the case. In 1904 $7,209.90 was expended for books and periodicals, and in 1908 only $5,007.18 was available for this important item. So it can be seen that the library during the present year was obliged to curtail its purchase of books to a sum of $2,202.72 less than the sum expended four years ago.

Now it is the main essential business of a public library to buy books for the public, and a library that steadily and regularly decreases the amount of its book expenditure is surely becoming less efficient every year in the work which it was especially established to do. It is a matter of very serious regret that such a condition of affairs has to be reported, and it is earnestly hoped that larger appropriations in the future will enable us to reverse this retrograde movement.

The library has received the following donations of books and pamphlets during the past year:—

List of Donations.

	Vols.	Pamph.
Allen, George W.	1	
Boston Transit Commission	1	
Bradley, Charles	1	
Braybrook, Albert A.		1
Buffum, George T.	1	
Canada, Department of Agriculture.	1	
Carnegie Institute	1	
Clark, Frank H.	2	1
Clough, George M.	14	
Coolidge, A. C.	1	
Cutler, S. Newton	2	
DeBenneville, James S.	1	
Dusseault, John H.	1	
Fitchburg, Mass.	1	
Goss, George H.	6	
Greene, Rev. J. M., D. D.	1	
Hadley, S. Henry (music)	76	
Haley, Mary	1	
Hansell, Mrs. E. P. Evans	1	
Harvard University	1	
Lake Mohonk Conference	1	
Lamb, Fred W.		1
Lambert, Anna M.		1
Library of Congress	2	
Loring, Ernest J.	4	
Marks, Harold	1	
Massachusetts	36	2
Massachusetts Civil Service Reform Association		3
Merchants' Association of New York		1
Middlesex County	1	
Montville, T.	2	
Murray, Thomas Hamilton	1	
Peaslee, John B.	1	
Pendergast, Mrs. Ella Worth	1	
Playground Association		2
Powers, Rev. L. M., D. D.	1	
Raymond, Professor George L.	3	
Sanborn, Mrs. Carrie A.	1	
Smith, John F.	1	
Smithsonian Institution	1	
Southworth, Gordon A.	1	
Sturgis, R. Clipston	1	
United States	10	4
Webster, Miss E. S.	1	
Williams & Wilkins Co.	1	
Totals	185	16

Conclusion.

During the past ten years the library's circulation has increased from 212,817 to 448,224. A children's department, a school department, and a reference department, open during regular hours, have been established. The library has been opened every evening in the week, instead of Wednesday and Saturday evenings, as formerly. The reading rooms have also been opened Sunday afternoons. A music department, which has been generally patronized, has been established. The total number of books in the library has increased from 40,902 to 82,879. The accession number has increased from 44,307 to 99,196. A reading committee to examine the new novels has been appointed. The system for issuing vacation cards for people on their summer outings has been in operation several years, to the great satisfaction of our patrons. A system of free access to all the circulating books of the library has been inaugurated, and has now been in operation several years. A complete new card catalogue of the entire library, with separate card catalogues for the children's room and the reference department, has been installed. The age limit for card holders has been removed. The policy of loaning books to the Sunday schools to the limit of 100 to a school has been adopted. A new addition nearly doubling the capacity of the library has been added to the library building, and a $25,000 branch library, the gift of Andrew Carnegie, will be ready for occupancy early in the coming year. Our growth and development in many ways has been unusual, and, if adequate means of doing our increased work is supplied, a greater epoch of usefulness is surely ahead of us.

In a more than perfunctory and conventional way, I wish to thank the members of the staff for their faithfulness, and all the members of your board for your kindness and co-operation.

SAM WALTER FOSS,
Librarian.

December 29, 1908.

37th Annual Report

of the

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Trustees of the Public Library

of the

City of Somerville

Massachusetts

1909

THIRTY-SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library

Compliments of the

Trustees of the Public Library.



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT
1910



THIRTY-SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library

OF THE

SOMERVILLE

SACHUSETTS

THE YEAR 1909



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT
1910





CARNEGIE BRANCH LIBRARY, WEST SOMERVILLE.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

OF THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1909.

Trustees.

EDWARD C. BOOTH, M. D.
JOHN B. VIALL.
J. FRANK WELLINGTON.
FREDERICK W. PARKER.
THOMAS M. DURELL, M. D.
WILLIAM L. BARBER.
REV. CHARLES L. NOYES, D. D.
FREDERICK W. HAMILTON, D. D.
WILLIAM H. BURGESS.

Officers.

EDWARD C. BOOTH, M. D. President
SAM WALTER FOSS Secretary

Committees.

Building and Grounds — Viall, Wellington, and Noyes.
Administration — Wellington, Parker, and Durell.
Books and Catalogues—Booth, Viall, Noyes, Durell, Barber, and Hamilton.
Finance — Parker, Barber, and Burgess.

Librarian.

SAM WALTER FOSS.

Assistant Librarian.

FLORENCE D. HURTER.

Cataloguer.

ESTHER M. MAYHEW.

Assistant Cataloguer.

EDITH B. HAYES.

Children's Librarian.

ANNA L. STONE.

School Librarian.

MARY S. WOODMAN.

Reference and Art Librarian.

MABEL E. BUNKER.

Assistants.

Bessie L. Duddy.
Alice W. Sears.
Florence M. Barber.
A. Myrtle Merrill.
Ruby G. White.
Louise Thiery.

Attendants.

Cecil M. Barlow.
William E. Bagster.
Edgar L. Kaula.
Harry Benson.

Janitor.

Charles A. Southwick.

WEST SOMERVILLE BRANCH.

Branch Librarian.

Nellie M. Whipple.

Assistants.

Ethel M. Nute.
Bessie S. Corb.
Annie M. Currie.

Attendant.

Ronald Moore.

Janitor.

John J. Kilty.

PUBLIC LIBRARY ACCOUNT.

Receipts and Expenditures for 1909.

CREDIT.

Appropriation	$16,000 00
Dog tax	3,796 11
West Somerville Branch	19 92
Somerville Y. M. C. A.	2 21
Fines, etc.	768 50
Total	$20,586 74

DEBIT.

Books and periodicals	$6,809 35
Binding	1,631 84
Cards	105 00
Printing	608 40
Stationery	70 42
Salaries	9,959 24
Agencies	587 55
Express	315 34
Postage	39 00
Telephone	42 71
Supplies	107 35
Binders	78 40
A. L. A. membership	5 00
Repairs	27 95
Insurance	67 50
Disbursements	35 00
Sundries	60 48
Stereographs	16 86
Ice	19 35
Total	$20,586 74

West Somerville Branch.

CREDIT.

Appropriation	$2,500 00
Fines, etc.	133 27
Total	$2,633 27

DEBIT.

Books and periodicals	$1,354 62
Binding	214 91
Cards	19 43
Printing	16 90
Stationery	24 54
Salaries	855 52
Express	35 30
Telephone	14 23
Supplies	37 32
Binders	53 50
Ice	5 00
Frame	2 00
Total	$2,633 27

Isaac Pitman Art Fund.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1908	$115 62
Interest July 31, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	80 00
Interest December 31, American Telphone & Telegraph Co.	80 00
Interest accruing on deposits December 31	20 40
Total	$296 02

DEBIT.

Books and pictures purchased in 1909	$168 75
Balance carried to 1910	127 27
Total	$296 02

Isaac Pitman Poetry Fund.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1908	$44 29
Interest July 31, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	20 00
Interest December 31, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	20 00
Interest accruing on deposits December 31	5 10
Total	$89 39

DEBIT.

Books purchased in 1909	$55 13
Balance carried to 1910	34 26
Total	$89 39

Frances A. Wilder Fund.

CREDIT.

Interest accruing on deposit of $100	$4 40

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To the Honorable, the Mayor, and the Board of Aldermen of the City of Somerville:—

Gentlemen,—The thirty-seventh annual report of the trustees of the public library is herewith respectfully submitted.

The report of the librarian is grouped with this more general and cursory report, and to the former your honorable body is referred for a detailed and statistical statement of the operation of the library for the year.

The affairs of the library are in a healthy condition, and the institution is enjoying in an enviable degree the confidence and good will of the people of Somerville.

The year has been a uniformly prosperous one, and has been unusually marked by the completion and opening of the West Somerville branch library building, which was mentioned as being in course of erection at the time of our last report.

Although three flourishing agencies at the northwesterly part of the city have been discontinued in consequence of the establishment of the branch, the new institution has enabled the library to offer its opportunities more effectively to the people at large, and to those of West Somerville, in particular, as is shown by the considerable increase in the circulation.

The circulation of the three agencies,—the West Somerville, the Teele-square, and the Highland,—was 23,477 books for the six months of 1908 corresponding to the six months of 1909, in which the new branch circulated 54,534. The natural increase in business which these three agencies would have shown, had they been continued and the branch not built, is partly offset by a deduction which should be made in the figures of the Highland agency, which drew probably from one-quarter to one-half of its borrowers from territory that the branch draws little or nothing from. Therefore it is safe to say that the circulation of books in the West Somerville district is considerably more than doubled by the establishment of the new library.

The cataloguing department has been crowded with business during the year, as it has done the same character of work in preparing for circulation the books of the branch as it has done for the main library.

The children's department at the main library has naturally been somewhat less attended since the establishment of the branch, but with the children's work done at the latter institution, the results have exceeded those of any year since the establishment of the department.

The bills for binding have been increasing so alarmingly in the last few years, with the increase in circulation, that it is with satisfaction that we can report a substantial reduction in this item. This reduction has been brought about by the setting up of a simple and inexpensive binding plant within the library building, which has been efficiently operated by one of our assistants, Miss Sears. The origin and work of the new feature are fully described in the librarian's report. By this arrangement we have been able at moderate cost to utilize many books previously used for circulating-library purposes, and thus come nearer supplying the great demand of our readers for recent fiction. For the modern, up-to-date metropolitan library, from the nature of its patrons and the character of its business, which is confined almost exclusively to fiction, is particularly sensitive to the waning popularity of the season's novels, and proceeds early to unload its surplus copies, whereas the vogue of the new novel is much longer at a public library.

The branch library was opened to the public on May 27, in charge of a branch librarian, Miss Nellie M. Whipple, and two assistants, on a schedule of fifty-two hours per week,—the hours being from one to nine o'clock P. M. on five secular days of the week, and from nine o'clock A. M. to nine o'clock P. M. on Saturday. From the beginning the new branch has been patronized beyond the expectations of the most sanguine. The circulation on a more than 100,000 basis is larger than that of the parent library when Mr. Hayes became librarian in 1893.

It is a matter of congratulation to the trustees that a recent inventory taken of the 6,000 and odd books at the branch disclosed the loss of only six, and this while the public has had at all times free access to the shelves.

An investigation into the geographical distribution of the patrons of the new branch and the characteristics of the territory tributary to it may prove of interest. In regard to the location of the city's libraries, it may be remarked that the central library is situated on a main avenue between the city hall and the two high school buildings, nearly in the geographical centre of the city, which at this point is upwards of a mile and three-quarters in width. The West Somerville branch building is situated a mile and a half northwesterly from the main library on the line of the city's long axis, near the business centre of West Somerville, somewhat beyond a point where the city narrows to a width of less than three-quarters of a mile and continues for seven-eighths of a mile at substantially the same width. This district is succeeded by a strip of land near the debouching of Alewife brook into the Mystic river, now to a considerable extent under improvement as a part of the park system of Greater Boston,—a little more than half a mile long and a little less than a quarter of a mile wide, soon to be partly available for residential purposes, but as yet hardly built upon.

The entire region tributary to the branch is a comparatively new one, and is occupied by a fairly homogeneous community of enterprising people. It was not without good library privilege before the establishment of the branch, as there were then three agencies in the district,—the West Somerville agency near the new branch; the Teele-square agency near the half-mile circle on the northwesterly side; and the Highland agency, also on the half-mile circle to the southeast, in the general direction of the main library. A circle drawn around the branch as a centre, with a radius of a quarter of a mile, comes close to the Cambridge line. The half-mile circle cuts into Medford on the northeast, embracing eight acres of that city's territory, and on the southwest extends into Cambridge some 600 feet westerly of Massachusetts avenue, and returns to Somerville nearly a mile from where it entered, encircling ninety-seven acres of that city's lands. The area of a circle of a quarter-mile radius is 125 acres. The greater part of this is thickly settled, probably as much so as it will be for a long time to come. The population is upwards of 4,075 on a basis of four persons to a household. The patrons of the branch within this area number approximately 1,480, 864 being new card holders, who had never used the main library, and 615 who had been borrowers at the main library, but wished to avail themselves of the privileges of the branch when it was opened. The area contained between the quarter and the half-mile circle is 377 acres, 271 of which are within Somerville territory. The population of this area by a similar estimation to the above is 8,700. It contains a park of four and a half acres and about fifty-nine acres of Tufts College grounds. Some twenty-five acres of this last tract is now being opened for settlement, about one-half of it being already built upon. Otherwise this larger circular area is nearly as thickly settled as the smaller. The number of borrowers living within it is approximately 1,815, of whom 991 are new card holders and 824 who have likewise been card holders at the main library. Beyond the half-mile circle, towards the main library, the number of borrowers at the branch shades off rapidly. Eight hundred and forty-nine patronize the branch who live nearer to the branch than to the main library, but the larger number of these come from the north end of the city.

After passing a point midway between the two libraries towards the main library, but 210 have taken out cards at the branch. There are no noticeable barren spaces within a half-mile of the branch where there are no library patrons, and every one of the 100 streets within this limit has its borrowers. One observation that can be drawn from these researches is that the patrons of a public library decrease in number in proportion to the distance that they are called upon to travel for library privileges,—a very natural conclusion, confirming previ-

ous experience, and showing that, were it not for the cost, branches could advantageously be established in other parts of the city. Undoubtedly the publicity connected with the establishment of the branch brought to many for the first time a knowledge of where our libraries are located, but it is feared that many people in the city are still uninformed of the location or even of the existence of such institutions in the community.

Before dismissing this subject, we would say that we believe that it would be profitable to extend these investigations to the remaining parts of the city, as time permits, until finally the relationship or non-relationship to the library of every household in the city is recorded.

In regard to the appropriations to be asked of your honorable body for the coming year, we believe that the requirements of the main library will be $18,000 and the usual dog tax, and of the branch $5,000. This is slightly more than has been granted hitherto, but an insufficient number of books have been purchased for the main library for several years past, and in each department there is a call for a little greater expenditure, as its work enlarges with the growth of the city. The branch has been carried on for the first seven months of its existence at the rate of $4,285 per annum. Salaries will be somewhat increased, as was adverted to last year, and an extra attendant needed at the present time will soon become necessary, on account of the unexpectedly large business which has developed since the inauguration of the branch.

We are again glad to bear witness to the faithfulness and efficiency of our librarian, Mr. Foss, and the staff in both libraries, and we also wish to record our appreciation of the services of the branch librarian, Miss Whipple, who for the last year has enthusiastically devoted herself, regardless of hours, to the opening and management of the new institution.

Respectfully submitted for the board of trustees,

EDWARD C. BOOTH.
President.

December 28, 1909.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS


TUFTS
COLLEGE
PCT. III.
PCT. II.
TANNERY
BROOK
ALEWIFE

MAP SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF RESIDENCES OF CARD-HOLDERS OF THE WEST SOMERVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY.

DOTS INDICATE CARDS; CLUSTERED DOTS INDICATE CARDS AT ONE HOUSE NUMBER.




THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:—

I herewith submit the librarian's thirty-seventh annual report. Following my usual custom, I append a somewhat detailed statement of the work done by each department:—

The Cataloguing Department.

The cataloguing department, Miss Esther M. Mayhew, cataloguer, has had an unusually busy year. In addition to the regular work ordinarily done, much extra labor was involved in cataloguing nearly 7,000 books for the branch library. These books were acquired by the branch library by transference from the central library and by direct purchase. In either case, considerable work was necessitated for the cataloguing department. The shelf list for the branch library was prepared by Miss Duddy. There are probably more than 15,000 cards in the main catalogue at the central library. All the cataloguing work of the branch will continue to be done at the central library.

Below are given the general statistics of this department:—

Books Added.

Accession number January 1, 1909		99,197
" " " " 1910		108,105
Total number added during 1909:—		
Main library	7,502	
Branch "	1,406	
Total		8,908
Books new to library		4,023
Duplicates		4,885
Total number withdrawn		17,682
Total number in library:—		
Main library	83,543	
Branch "	6,880	
Total		90,423

Books Withdrawn.

Books worn out	798
" lost in schools	66
" " by general readers	257
" " in agencies	184
" burned per order Board of Health	60
Total number of books withdrawn	1,365

Total number of books withdrawn to January 1, 1909	16,317
" " " " " during 1909	1,365
Total	17,682

7,469 catalogue cards have been purchased from the Library of Congress during 1909.

Binding.

	Main.	Branch.	Total.
Volumes re-bound	2,751	360	3,111
Periodicals	243		243
Paper-covered books	253	35	288
Repaired	40	1	41
	3,287	396	3,683

The Children's Department.

The children's department, Miss Anna L. Stone, librarian, has during the year had a circulation of 60,839 fiction and 14,841 other works, making a total of 75,680. It may be interesting to know that of the "other works" circulated General Works were 1,628; Philosophy, 25; Religion, 376; Sociology, 2,543; Philology, 200; Natural Science, 984; Useful Arts, 508; Fine Arts, 1,167; Literature, 2,092; Travel, History, and Biography, 5,318.

The children's department of the public library does a work for the community whose value it is difficult to over-estimate. The work is not performed under the most favorable conditions. The room is damp, and perhaps sometimes unwholesome in the summer season, and is poorly heated in the winter. There is, under present conditions, no adequate way of ventilating it. The children themselves are uncomplaining patrons, but criticism on the part of adults is not infrequent. The often-repeated recommendation that an entrance to the children's room be made directly from the outside, if carried into effect, would do much to abate the noise in the general reading room caused by the passage of large numbers of children up and down the stairs.

The School Department.

The school department, Mary S. Woodman, librarian, is an agency that brings the public library into direct contact with the public school. Libraries usually consisting of about forty books are now sent to 165 schoolrooms of the city. This practically means 165 distributing agencies for the circulation of public library books, and enables the library to reach hundreds of families that would not otherwise be reached.

Below are the statistics of this department for the year:—

Books in library	8,274
Increase during year	773
Libraries out	165
Libraries delivered	171
Volumes out	6,819
Volumes delivered	7,698
Circulation during year:—	
Fiction	51,240
Non-fiction	67,224
Total	118,464

Reference and Art Department.

The reference and art department, under the supervision of Miss Mabel E. Bunker, has accomplished its usual amount of work during the year.

Below is given the monthly attendance for the year:—

January	1,018
February	986
March	896
April	718
May	679
June	610
July	410
August	343
September	567
October	771
November	1,065
December	668
Total	8,731
Number of registered visitors to the Art Room	215
" " " " " " Americana Room	105
Total	320

This does not give the complete number of persons who use the books in the Art and Americana rooms, as many books are brought to the main reference room to be consulted there.

Number of volumes in Reference and Art Department	9,993
Number of volumes withdrawn for the West Somerville branch	26
Increase of volumes during the year	314

During the year there have been seventeen art exhibitions, as follows:—

Norway, No. 1, Bergen, Hardanger Fjord, and Lognfjord.
Walter Crane, No. 1, Pictures for Children, Art for the Nursery.
Rise of Sculpture, No. 1.
Rise of Sculpture, No. 2.
Fourteen Famous Pictures.
Greece, No. 3.

City of Rouen.
Views of New England Scenery.
Famous Pictures, No. 3.
Amesbury, Mass.
Audubon Bird Plates.
Millet (drawings reproduced).
Granada and the Alhambra.
Photograph of Boston Parks and Metropolitan Parks of Massachusetts (our collection).
The Song of Hiawatha.
Etchings of William Unger, No. 2, of Dutch and Flemish Schools.
Boydell's Illustrations of Shakespeare, Part 1.

Some of the books purchased during the year for this department:—

Buckley, Hoppin & Churchill, ed., (The) Fine Arts, 2v.
Bunce and Owen, Nature's Aid to Design.
Cutter, W. R., comp., Historic Homes and Places and Genealogical Memoirs Relating to the Families of Middlesex County, Mass., 4v.
Cyclopedia of Automobile Engineering, 4v.
Cyclopedia of Building Trades, 6v.
Cyclopedia of Civil Engineering, 8v.
Cyclopedia of Heating, Plumbing, and Sanitation, 4v.
East, Alfred, Landscape Painting.
Hind, C. L., Augustus Saint-Gaudens.
Klassiker der Kunst-Memling.
Knowlton and Ridgway, Birds of the World.
McSpadden, J. Walker, Famous Painters of America.
Meister der Farbe, 1908.
(The) Old Masters, 100 Examples in Color, 2v.
Rhead, G. Woolliscroft, Studies in Plant Form.
Schriever and Cummings, ed., Complete Self-Instructing Library of Practical Photography, 8v.
Standard Library of Natural History, 5v.
Stearns, Whitcher, and Parker, ed., Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire, 4v.
Williams, H. S., History of the Art of Writing, 4v.

The need of more room in the reference department becomes increasingly apparent each year. Whether it is possible to secure this room by any alteration in the building, by the removal of partitions, or by increased height of shelving, is a matter to be determined after consultation with a building expert.

Binding.

During the past year more than usual attention has been given to the subject of binding. It has been felt for a long time that a more expert knowledge of the details of binding—the knowledge of leathers, sewing, joints, tapes, etc.—should be possessed by some member of the library staff in order to deal with the matter intelligently. Librarians have learned by many exasperating experiences that a book may be outwardly beautiful, but yet be very flimsily bound, and fall to pieces after a few readings. Expert knowledge is necessary in a library in

order to detect this flimsy work. Accordingly Miss Alice W. Sears, of the staff, volunteered to make a study of this subject. She spent a week in one bindery, learning the principal details of the work. She has spent several days, also, at two other binderies, has visited the bindery of the Boston public library, and has tried in every way to thoroughly inform herself in regard to the work. As a result of her experience, she has established a bindery department in the library. A press, a sewing frame, cloth, thread end-papers, and other paraphernalia of a bindery have been purchased, and she has set about the actual work of repairing books. Since April, when she first began the work, she has repaired 3,366 books. The reduction in binding bills for the year, largely in consequence of her work, in the library has really been astonishing.

In 1908 our entire binding bills amounted to $3,680.53. In 1909 our entire bills amounted to $1,832.13, a saving of $1,848.40, or about fifty per cent. This is a remarkable evidence of the utility of her work.

Miss Sears has also instructed Miss Cobb, of the branch library, in the details of the work, and repairing of similar nature is now carried on at the branch.

Agencies.

Since the closing of the three agencies at West Somerville the library has been in a condition to supply the demands of the remaining agencies. The South Somerville agency does not circulate any books from a shelf supply. But for Union square and East Somerville, where shelf supplies are kept, many more of the new books than ever before have been purchased. Miss Florence M. Barber, who has charge of the agencies, visits them regularly, reports their needs, and recommends the purchase of books. The work at the agencies, as far as can be learned, has given better satisfaction the present year than ever before.

In the natural course of evolution, a prosperous agency ought in time to develop into a reading room, and the reading room eventually develop into a branch. There is already a considerable public demand for reading rooms both at Union square and at East Somerville.

Below is a table of circulation of the different agencies during the year:—

Agencies.	Teele Square.	West Somerville.	East Somerville.	South Somerville.	Union Square.	Highland.
January	252	230	7	192	6	3
Shelves	1,080	1,595	738		436	963
February	250	272	9	189	5	2
Shelves	1,100	1,579	876		473	1,099
March	280	402	26	228	10	6
Shelves	1,417	1,949	1,000		579	578
April	198	278	3	146	6	Closed Mar. 9, '09
Shelves	1,078		820		485	
May	201	255	4	162	7	
Shelves	974		809		417	
June	149	70	2	216	13	
Shelves	601		959		374	
July	Closed June 19, '09	26	2	183	16	
Shelves			679		433	
August		56	7	206	13	
Shelves			818		455	
September		47	6	127	2	
Shelves			774		381	
October		52	3	161	5	
Shelves			808		409	
November		87	2	201	10	
Shelves			1,099		566	
December		38	8	145	6	
Shelves			796		388	
Totals	7,580	6,936	10,255	2,156	5,495	2,651
Grand Total						35,073

General Work.

The general work of the library, under the supervision of Miss Florence D. Hurter, shows a slight decrease, due to the opening of the branch library in West Somerville.

The general circulation figures of the year are as follows:—

	Fiction.	Other Works.	Total.
January	27,438	13,033	40,471
February	28,388	13,554	41,942
March	36,260	16,956	53,216
April	25,597	12,831	38,428
May	24,006	12,513	36,519
June	23,926	9,808	33,734
July	15,914	3,286	19,200
August	17,675	3,746	21,421
September	14,165	4,382	18,547
October	19,269	9,551	28,820
November	27,093	14,922	42,015
December	21,528	11,624	33,152
Total	281,259	126,206	407,465

Below is given our shelf circulation figures (books delivered from library shelves):—

	Fiction.	Other Works.	Total.
January	16,057	5,677	21,734
February	16,050	5,790	21,840
March	21,333	7,640	28,973
April	15,913	5,257	21,170
May	14,613	4,773	19,386
June	15,615	4,512	20,127
July	13,718	3,056	16,774
August	14,576	3,440	18,016
September	10,940	3,187	14,127
October	12,099	4,171	16,270
November	17,083	5,822	22,905
December	13,172	3,977	17,149
Total	181,169	57,302	238,471

Below is given our circulation by classes, exclusive of fiction:—

General works	7,992
Philosophy	1,499
Religion	8,584
Sociology	20,248
Philology	1,633
Natural science	13,682
Useful arts	5,426
Fine arts	7,837
Literature	15,688
History	28,776
Total of general delivery	111,365
Delivered from children's room	14,841
Total of other works	126,206
Fiction	281,259
Other works	126,206
Total	407,465
Percentage, fiction	69.03%
Percentage, other works	30.97%

Below is the statistical statement of the general work of the year:—

Accession number			108,105
	Main.	Branch.	Total.
Volumes in library	83,543	6,880	90,423
" added	7,502	1,406	8,908
" discarded	1,350	15	1,365
Total circulation	407,465	62,381	469,846
Shelf "	238,471	62,381	300,852
Children's room circulation	75,680	19,539	95,219
Cards issued	7,016	2,532	9,548
Delivered from Teele Square agency		*1,330	
" " " " shelves		6,250	
" " West Somerville agency		†1,813	
" " " " shelves		5,123	
" " East Somerville agency		79	
" " " " shelves		10,176	
" " South Somerville agency		145	
" " Union Square agency		6	
" " " " shelves		388	
" " Highland agency		§11	
" " " shelves		2,640	
" " Knapp school		1,522	
Volumes delivered to school libraries		7,698	
Volumes delivered to Sunday schools, clubs, hospitals, etc.		1,209	
Visitors in reference room		8,731	

Received, fines	$868 29
" books	93 86
" telephone	7 24
Total	$969 39
By sundry expenses	$200 89
" cash to City Treasurer	768 50
Total	$969 39

*Closed June 19, 1909.
†Books taken April, 1909.
§Closed March 9, 1909.

Below is given the circulation figures of main library and West Somerville branch:—

Fiction:—	
Main library	281,259
West Somerville branch	50,808
Total	332,067
Other works:—	
Main library	126,206
West Somerville branch	11,573
Total	137,779
Fiction	332,067
Other works	137,779
Total	469,846

Percentage, fiction	70.68%
Percentage, other works	29.32%

Circulation of three agencies in 1908, during the months in which they were closed in 1909:—

Highland agency, March-December	9,354
Teele Square agency, June-December	8,879
West Somerville agency, April-June	6,136
Total	24,369

This amount, added to our total circulation for the year, 407,465, makes a total of 431,834. Last year our total circulation was 448,224. So the net loss of circulation in the general library, due to the opening of the branch, is 16,390.

During the year 472 vacation cards were issued, on which 2,796 books were taken out, 2,434 being fiction and 362 other works. Thirty-seven sets of stereographs are now owned by the library. The circulation of these sets during the year amounted to 1,462.

The following Sunday schools take books from the library: Bow-street Methodist, Flint-street Methodist, Highland Congregational, Prospect-hill Congregational, Second Advent, Second Unitarian, West Somerville Baptist, Winter-hill Congregational, and the Winter-hill Universalist.

Books are also sent to the Somerville Boys' Club, Somerville Y. M. C. A., Somerville hospital, Home for the Aged, and the police station. There were 1,209 books sent to the various Sunday schools, clubs, etc., of which 1,042 were fiction and 167 other works.

The 1915 Exhibit.

The Somerville library, together with the Boston library, the Cambridge library, the Atheneum, and the State library, installed an exhibit at the Boston 1915 exposition. This exhibit, like most of the exhibits at that exposition, consisted largely of photographs. The Somerville photographs were arranged to show the progressive growth of the library, and consisted of interior and exterior views. The West Somerville Carnegie branch library was represented by a group of photographs showing all the rooms of the building and several exterior views.

The library has received the following donations of books, pamphlets, and periodicals during the past year:—

List of Donations.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Periods.
Adams, Charles F.	2		
Allen, George W.		1	
American School of Metaphysics	1		
American Sports Publishing Co.	1		
Amherst College	1		
Benton, Josiah H.		2	
Booth, Edward C., M. D.		1	25
Boston Transit Commission	2		
British and Foreign Unitarian Association	1		
Cambridge Bridge Commission	1		
Carrick, Samuel P.	2		
Casson, Herbert N.	1		
Charities Publishing Com.		1	
Choates, Joseph H.	1		
Civil Service Commission	1		
Collins Memorial Committee	1		
Cutler, S. Newton	4		
Dana, John Cotton		1	
Dartmouth College	1		
Densmore, Emmet, M. D.	2		
Dexter, Mrs. E. Alline Osgood (Music)	167		
Emerson, Francis P., M. D.		1	
Emerson, Gilbert D.		1	
Farnsworth, Edward C.	2		
Fifth Maine Regiment	1		
Free Religious Association		1	
Foss, Sam Walter	4		
Fryer, Thomas T.	1		
Green, S. W.		1	
Green, Samuel S.		1	
Greene, John M., D. D.	2		
Harvard University	1		
Haseltine, M. W.		1	
Hunnewell, James F	1		
Jeffers, LeRoy	1		
Kaan, Frances W.	1		
Lake Mohonk Conference	1		
Lee, Thomas Z.	1		
Library Bureau	1		
Loring, George F.	7		
Massachusetts	37	2	
Massachusetts Historical Society		1	
Massachusetts Institute Technology	2		
Merchants Association of New York		2	
Metropolitan Water Board	1		
Middlebury, Vermont, College		1	
Middlesex County	1		
Miller, Leslie W.	1		
Moody, J. H.		1	
Moon, James H.	1		
Municipal Ownership Publishing Bureau	1		
National Civic Federation		1	
Carried forward	257	20	25

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.



WEST SOMERVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY,
SIDE AND REAR VIEW.



READING ROOM, WEST SOMERVILLE BRANCH.

LIST OF DONATIONS.—Concluded.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Periods.
Brought forward	257	20	25
N. E. Anti-Vivisection Society		1	
New Zealand	2		
Ohio State University	1		
Ohio Wesleyan University	1		
Pearson, R. A.	1		
Perkins Institution for the Blind		3	
Publicity Commission, North Adams	1		
Public Libraries		95	
Rawson, Frederick W.	1		
Raymond, George Lansing	9		
Rowland, Dunbar	2		
Sanborn, Mrs. Carrie A.	1		
Smithsonian Institution	4	4	
Somerville, Mass.	2		
Stickney, Rufus	21	2	
Stimson, John W.	1		
Sturgis, R. C.	1		
Towle Manufacturing Co.	1		
Tufts College	1		
Tufts, Martha B.		47	
Underhill, Charles L.	96	45	
Union Steamship Co.		1	
Union University, Albany	1		
United States	14		
U. S. Brewers' Association	2		
Valentine, H. E.	1	1	36
Varilla, P—B.	1		
Webster, Miss E. S.	26	49	9
Whitaker, George E.	1		
Woods, Hon. John M.	10		
Totals	459	268	70

West Somerville Carnegie Branch Library.

On the evening of May 26 the West Somerville Carnegie branch library was dedicated, with appropriate ceremonies.

Addresses were given by his Honor Mayor John M. Woods and John F. Foster, through whose efforts the gift of $25,000, which made the building possible, was secured from Andrew Carnegie.

A short address by Walter T. Littlefield, commissioner of public buildings, was made, in which he tendered the keys of the building to the library trustees. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the president, the keys were accepted by William L. Barber, of the board of trustees, with an appropriate speech of

DEDICATORY EXERCISES

AT THE

CARNEGIE WEST SOMERVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY

May 26, 1909.

INTRODUCTORY.

The most interesting and important event of the year has been the establishment of a branch library at West Somerville. An increase of library accommodations at West Somerville had been considered and urged by the trustees for many years, but the city government felt that the financial condition of the city would not warrant any considerable expenditure for the purpose. In the report of 1906 the trustees recommended that a reading room be fitted up with books and magazines and placed in charge of an assistant, and this temporary expedient would undoubtedly have been adopted, had not the problem been solved in an unexpected way. The citizens of West Somerville had long wished to have a special building erected for this purpose, but the subject was first publicly discussed at a meeting of the West Somerville board of trade on September 10, 1906, when a committee, consisting of Howard D. Moore and Winsor L. Snow, was appointed to arrange for a public meeting in the following month in furtherance of this object. This public meeting was held on October 25. It was largely attended, much interest and enthusiasm were manifested, and the prevailing opinion was for a building to be erected on the Lincoln schoolhouse lot. It was voted "that it is the unanimous sense of the community that we should have a branch library properly housed in West Somerville," and a committee of three citizens was appointed to co-operate with the committee of the board of trade and "continue the efforts to secure favorable action by the city government towards locating a branch library in West Somerville."

On the evening of the meeting of the board of trade on September 10, previously mentioned, there was some informal talk as to the advisability of asking Andrew Carnegie to give a library building. This idea did not meet with the approval of the majority, but John F. Foster was led to believe that a happy solution of the problem lay in securing the aid of Mr. Carnegie, and quietly, and on his own responsibility, began to work along these lines. He had a talk with R. A. Franks, a financial agent of Mr. Carnegie. This he followed up with a letter to Mr. Franks on March 14, 1907, in which he refers to a sentiment prevailing in West Somerville in favor of asking Mr. Carnegie



STACK ROOM, WEST SOMERVILLE BRANCH.



to make a gift to the city of Somerville of a branch library building, in consequence of the apparent improbability of securing an appropriation for the purpose from the city, and asks that the usual application papers for such a request be sent to him. After an exhaustive inquiry into the existing library facilities of the city and the supposed needs of the West Somerville district, Mr. Bertram, private secretary of Mr. Carnegie, writes on April 9 that, "if the city agrees by resolution of council to maintain a branch library at a cost of not less than $2,500 a year, being additional to the gross amount now spent on the central library, and procures a suitable site for the branch building, Mr. Carnegie will be glad to give $25,000 for the erection of a branch library building for the city of Somerville." The offer was submitted to the city council at their meeting of April 25, and was referred by them to the finance committee. At the suggestion of the mayor, the city solicitor was requested to draw a suitable resolution meeting the requirements of Mr. Carnegie, and not taking from the trustees of the library the control of their department. Further questions having arisen, it was ascertained that it was Mr. Carnegie's intention that permanent fixtures, such as shelving, stacks, and delivery desk, should be purchased from the gift. No restrictions were imposed by Mr. Carnegie regarding the choice of architect or the style of the structure.

After a conference with the trustees, a public hearing, thorough discussion, long deliberation, and a reiteration of the sentiment of the community of West Somerville, as expressed at a public meeting held on June 12, the offer of Mr. Carnegie was formally accepted by the city council, and its action approved by the mayor on October 29. In this order of acceptance the mayor was authorized to promise, in behalf of the city government, the annual appropriation required by the terms of the gift. Mayor Grimmons, having satisfied Mr. Franks that a fitting site had been selected, that the land was free of liens, and that the city was ready to begin building, called to his aid an advisory committee, consisting of E. S. Sparrow, L. E. Merry, Rev. J. V. Garton, J. F. Foster, and James Davis, prominent citizens of West Somerville, and W. T. Littlefield, commissioner of public works, and Dr. E. C. Booth, president of the board of trustees of the public library, and proceeded immediately to the task in hand. At the first meeting of the mayor and the advisory board on January 14, 1908, it was decided to invite an open competition of architects for a design for the building. The second meeting, on March 17, was held for the purpose of inspecting the thirty-five plans submitted. On March 19 the mayor formally invited the trustees of the library and the librarian to express their opinions on the plans, through their president. At the third meeting, on April 28, the members of the committee handed in their choice

of the best five plans in the order of their preference. At the fourth meeting, on October 8, it was decided to place the words "Public Library" on the lintel over the front door. The mayor selected the plan drawn by McLean & Wright, architects of Boston, which was generally admitted to embrace the best features exteriorly and interiorly, and at the same time could be carried out within the amount of the gift. The building contract was awarded to Charles H. Belledue, and ground was first broken on July 9. The building having been completed and the furniture installed, in accordance with the wishes of the trustees, the library building was dedicated with appropriate exercises on May 26, 1909, and formally turned over to the control of the trustees of the public library. The building was placed in the centre of the spacious lot on College avenue, formerly occupied by the Lincoln schoolhouse, and faces southeasterly. From the front stairway hall of this beautiful and commodious building stairs rise on the one side to a spacious auditorium, with stage and ante-rooms, and descend on the other to a well-lighted basement. From the vestibule we enter the library proper—a hall, with reading room on one side for adults, on the other for children, occupying the front part of the wings. In this hall space the delivery desk is so placed as to command the two side rooms and the radiating stacks in the rear. The total width of the building is seventy-one feet, and the depth sixty-seven feet.

Photographs of the interior and exterior of the building will be found elsewhere in this report, and an account of the dedicatory exercises is herewith appended:—

ADDRESS OF WALTER T. LITTLEFIELD, COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

"Mr. Mayor, Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: About one year ago the first step was taken towards the erection of the beautiful building in the dedication of which you are taking part this evening. It has been my duty to exercise a general supervision over the construction work, and I desire to state publicly at this time my appreciation of the advice and counsel which has been given me by the members of the advisory committee and all others connected with its erection. I also wish to state that my official relations with the architects, contractors, and all concerned have been most pleasant, and that this building has been completed without friction or controversy. I hold in my hands, Mr. Mayor, the keys to this building, and as commissioner of public buildings of this city I now pass them to you as the city's chief executive."

ADDRESS OF HIS HONOR, MAYOR JOHN M. WOODS.

"In dedicating this library, I believe the thought and purpose that was in the mind and heart of the generous donor, Andrew Carnegie, and as well of Mr. Foster and all who have assisted or contributed towards the erection and completion of this building, was that this should be the home and dwelling place of intellectual culture in its highest and best sense.

"Intellectual culture is an essential element in the life of a people. This building we now dedicate is to be the abiding place, the home of this idea, the temple where these ideas are to be enthroned, and the people are to revere them. In these services we wish to obtain true conceptions of the nature of intellectual culture. We hope to be convicted of our privilege, duty, and responsibility, and at the same time have some glorious conceptions of life, and also to kindle aspirations that will always burn.

"This building is to have a vital connection with the life of this people. In it these ideas are to have local habitation and a prominence they have hitherto not possessed.

"I wish to speak of intellectual life. And first, what is intellectual life? It is thoughtful life; the individual thinks, and what is it to think? This is not an idle, listless frame of mind. It is not to seize the myths of the hour and accept them as truth. It is not to take floating rumors and mischievous gossip as fact, whether coming from mercenary publishers or the shallow brains of those who love, feed, and live on sensation. Thought is nothing of this; but it is in the individual putting himself to the severest task, the hardest, toughest kind of work, and holding himself to it, with no let-up till the work is done. The body, the physical being is wondrous. Its functions to the one who thinks are an enchanting, rapturous study. But the mind, the intellect, is infinitely more so. The very process of coming to know is wonderfully amazing. How, by the holding of the attention steadily to a subject, the subject will become clear to the individual's perceptions. He has learned it. He knows it, and his very being is thrilled with the consciousness of an acquisition, and, more than this, he feels the pulsation of a larger, a higher life. He addresses himself to another subject with a larger hope, a firmer purpose, and more assured anticipations of the luxury he is to experience. For to have once tasted the luxury of real thought is to have found something that nothing could buy and upon which the individual will set no price. To really think is to enter the unseen, the glorious, the infinite world of truth. It is to feel the consciousness of personal power. It is to come to know something of what a world one's own personality is, and the wondrous things faithful thinking can find.

"This structure is one that all must contemplate with pride,

and which must impress the passing stranger with a deep conviction that here is an intelligent and public-spirited people. It stands a symbol of simple elegance and chaste beauty. The power of such a building over a population cannot be estimated too highly in calling out and maturing the simple, gentle, lovely graces of character; and when it is remembered that it stands for the intellectual spirit, its power is increased a thousand fold. It is not a place for entertainment and pleasure, further than high thinking is entertainment, and lofty ideas, noble purposes, and earnest seekings for the best in thought and life are a pleasure.

"In setting this building apart as a public library, an institution is opened that proffers great privileges to the present and coming generations. There is a responsibility for the improvement of these privileges. This is an educational institution. Here the people are to learn to read, and this means very much. Here they are to learn to think, which means much more. Here they are to seek truth, and learn to be true. Here they are to gather up the experience of past ages and from that become wiser than any preceding generation. Here they are to find the best companionship in the thought of the best and loveliest spirits, embalmed in the literature of the past and the present; and they should take these companions with them into all their living.

"The intellectual life takes everything on to a higher plane. It ennobles everything, whether it be of a public or private nature. This spirit quickens the life of the neighborhood. It tidies up the surroundings of each habitation, takes care that streets and public ways are in good condition, that vitiating influences are suppressed, and that there shall be everywhere a deepening sense of self-respect. The more thorough the intellectual spirit of a community, the more truth-loving will be that community. An ardent passion for the exact sciences, for the truth in history, for the truth in morals will lead to exactness in life and a strict subjection to the laws of God. Let the pure, intellectual spirit control the life, completely possess it, and that life will be truthful. He who is studying for the exact truth will not yield himself to the dominion of error. The people completely possessed of the intellectual spirit will be truthful.

"The intellectual spirit is peaceful; it has no delight in the blare of trumpets, the clangor of martial hosts, and the gory plains of battle. To truly enthrone the intellectual spirit is to introduce an era of peace in the fullest sense.

"This spirit exalts the home; it loves its sacred seclusion, it brings its best and lays it on the altar of home, it imparts and it receives. Home is not true to its ideals without this spirit. This is its crown. This spirit purifies and ennobles life. To be truly intellectual is to be above the sensual and sordid.

It does not love to loiter at rich banquets, to make the markets a constant study, to have continually in mind the rise and fall of stocks. It is not supremely devoted to material ends, but to the acquisition of wisdom, understanding.

"The intellectual spirit is light-producing; darkness flees before it. It is light in one's own being, light in human society. As an age is possessed of this spirit, it is an age of light; as the intellectual leads in the onward movement of society, it is a powerful headlight making distant pathways plain.

"The spirit is hopeful and alluring. Hopeful, for the more it is exercised, the more of power is felt, the more of wealth it reveals. It ever allures to something higher and better, and that yields more satisfaction. It is ever giving the thoughtful, earnest mind glimpses of the great world of fact and visions of the glories of the great temple of truth. The higher it rises, the more overpowering are its visions of glory. This spirit draws to itself the noblest and the best. It should be noticed that, to understand the thought of others, we must first possess the intellectual spirit. We must first have felt the throb of that life in our own and enter into and know that life. To know and enjoy a book we must enter into the labors of the author; we cannot fully understand it until we have toiled in it and upon it after the manner that he toiled. This becomes enchanting labor when for once the individual realizes his duty and privilege and gives himself to it. This is not a labor in a dark mine, with small compensation, with uncongenial fellows, but it is toiling where the light is ever brightening and delightful views ever opening, and where there is none of the usual accompaniments of the dirt and the dust of toil, none of the sense of personal defilement by engaging in it, or of the degradation of servile labor, but it is through imperative duty, glorious privilege.

"I love to forecast the future and contemplate what of real life and true blessing this building and the library will be. I love to think of this day as an era. I love to think of the library shelves as gradually being filled with good books, history, biography, travels, literature, both poetry and prose, encyclopedias, popular treatises on science, fiction of the best kind, and everything that will enrich and ennoble human life."

ADDRESS OF MR. JOHN F. FOSTER.

Mayor Woods next called upon former Representative John F. Foster, through whose efforts the gift of the branch library building was received from Andrew Carnegie.

Mr. Foster delivered an informal address, in which he recounted the efforts, through a long series of years, of many prominent West Somerville citizens to obtain a reading room in their section of the city. The agitation for greater library accommodations has been carried on for a long time without any apparent results. It is a matter of great congratulation that

the hopes of the citizens of West Somerville, in the erection of this building, are now more than realized. Mr. Foster also spoke at some length upon the general subject of reading and education.

ADDRESS OF WILLIAM L. BARBER.

In the absence of Dr. Edward C. Booth, president of the board of trustees, who was detained by illness, William L. Barber, a member of the board, made the following address:—

"Your Honor: In behalf of the board of trustees of the Somerville public library, I assure you it is with great pleasure that they receive in charge this beautiful building and this most welcome addition to our public library service.

"I very much regret that the chairman of our board, Dr. Booth, is unable to be present to-night, and I know that no one is more disappointed at his enforced absence than he himself, as he has for a long time looked forward to this evening with pleasurable anticipation; and I know that he had something to say that would have been of great interest; but, unfortunately, he is confined to his house this evening by serious illness.

"The board of trustees has for a long time recognized the inadequacy of the library accommodations and facilities in this portion of our city. They have regretted that more of the privileges of our library system could not be more conveniently extended to the residents of West Somerville. They have recognized not only the great needs, but also the immediate necessity that some better methods should be provided in order that this large portion of our city, containing so large a number of our citizens, might enjoy those benefits to which they were so justly entitled.

"This desire on the part of the trustees can be clearly evidenced by referring to the reports of the board of trustees to the city government, which have been made from time to time during the last three or four years, and in which the needs of this particular portion of our city have been clearly set forth, and in which an additional appropriation has been requested in order that these additional benefits might be provided; but, unfortunately, the city government has been unable to make the appropriation for this purpose, and the trustees have been obliged to do the best they could with the means at their disposal, and under the agency system, a system never satisfactory when applied to so large a portion of a community as this.

"But now, fortunately, most opportunely, and providentially,—and I think that I may rightfully use that word, for certainly none of us a little more than a year ago would have for an instant dreamed that that which has actually come to pass could have been possible,—so I say providentially, this beautiful building has come to us, bringing great benefits, great advantages, and also what we believe will prove to be great blessings.



BRANCH LIBRARIAN'S OFFICE, WEST SOMERVILLE BRANCH.



CHILDREN'S ROOM, WEST SOMERVILLE BRANCH.

"The board of trustees are fully aware of the immense benefits which will accrue from the erection of this library in this portion of our city, and they will do all in their power to promote its growth and extend its usefulness.

"The trustees will, so far as it is possible with the means that shall be placed at their disposal by the city government for the support and maintenance of this building, aid in its good work and development, and they sincerely trust that the advantages and pleasure that will certainly result from its administration will afford not only satisfaction to yourself, your honor, and to the city at large, but especially so to the citizens of West Somerville, for whose particular benefit and convenience this building has been erected."

ADDRESS OF DR. HORACE G. WADLIN,
Librarian of the Boston Public Library.

"I read not long ago the story of a visit by an American librarian to the Laurentian library in Florence, said to be the oldest library in the world. Near it are the splendid palaces of the old nobility. It is in the shadow of Brunelleschi's dome and of Giotto's Campanile. Its grand hall was designed by Michel Angelo, and is enriched by exquisite carving and beautiful windows, the work of unrivaled Florentine artists. It contains marvelous books, written by hand with patient labor before the age of printing; thousands of manuscripts, and, besides these, early printed volumes displaying the revival of interest in classic learning, in the dawn of the Renaissance. There are in the world no more beautiful specimens of the art of the illuminator or fairer types of the skill of the first printers than it contains, to say nothing of the intellectual value of its treasures,—manuscript editions of Dante and Petrarch, the earliest known text of Virgil, the original autograph manuscript of the poems of Michel Angelo himself. As a celebrated French writer, the Vicomte de Vogüé, has said, its librarian 'has under his hand the precious collections of the Medici, beautiful ideas, sumptuously arrayed, texts and picture, manuscripts brought from the Orient, first editions of Italy, Greek books full of grace and wisdom, annotated and surcharged by the most powerful geniuses of the Renaissance.'

"This, I say, is the oldest library in the world. Merely to read of it stirs the imagination profoundly. It preserves in our day the atmosphere of the time of Lorenzo the Magnificent; and within its walls we seem, for the moment, transported to the age of the Medici. Beyond, in the sacristy of the Church of San Lorenzo, the princes of the line sleep silently. Their pomp and glory have departed, while almost unchanged through the centuries the library stands, in serene and solemn dignity, the representative of an alien world.

"Unless, by coincidence, some other may claim equal honor, we meet to-night to dedicate the newest library in the world, this branch in Somerville. Separated from the first by more than 400 years, it is no less widely separated by differences in aim and purpose. The one represents the aristocracy of art and letters, the other democracy, with wider opportunity and equal privilege. It is the difference between the fifteenth and the twentieth centuries.

"I need not speak of the turmoil into which we are now plunged by the growth of democracy, bringing its immense benefits and its tremendous responsibilities. No man within their influence fails to understand something, at least, of the conflicts which now threaten society, and which the twentieth century is to terminate either for good or ill; conflicts between poverty and wealth, between ignorance and culture, between privilege and restricted opportunity. Through them humanity, in pursuit of an ever-advancing ideal, is either to pass to a higher plane, by orderly progress under law, or is to suffer a violent overturn of all that has thus far been won.

"Nowhere are the lines more sharply drawn or the different elements more widely separated than in our growing towns and cities; and nowhere are unity of spirit and devotion to a common ideal more to be desired. We are trying to solve a problem more difficult than ever before proposed,—the unifying, in the bonds of a common citizenship, of large masses of people without a common lineage, a common mother tongue, or similar traditions and impulses. And for our success we are relying principally upon the influence of our various civic institutions and the power of an enlightened public opinion.

"The roots of the present are buried in the past, but civilization does not remain dormant. It unfolds and broadens under the power of the mysterious forces which promote its growth. It is well for us to clearly perceive their trend. It is not always easy to do this. The petty, the unimportant things are apt to engross us. But beneath these are the permanent forces, perhaps the one permanent force that makes for our national and civic welfare.

"Under its transforming power, men of good will are everywhere seeking, not merely in our country, but elsewhere, peace, brotherhood, and the widening of individual opportunity. The ideals of citizenship are slowly changing. The old barriers that kept men apart have been thrown down. The realization of a new ideal is seen in the movement for arbitration instead of war, in the curtailment of special privilege, in the broadening of the public schools, in the extension of municipal functions, in various forms of municipal ownership, the provision of parks and libraries, the improvement of tenement quarters in cities, and in the cultivation of beauty as an element in civic life. Thus society is ever moving in the

direction of broader communal activity; that is, towards the things we all of us may do for each other and for the general welfare. This throws a heavier responsibility upon citizenship. The things we are trying to accomplish by means of our votes and through our various civic activities are constantly becoming more complex and difficult.

"In the work to which we are committed, the public library is of great assistance, for in books are embodied the wisdom of the past, the aspirations of the present, and the hope for the future. Books are the tools and instruments of knowledge, and under modern conditions have an even more important place than in the past.

"I know that the beneficial influence of much reading has often been disputed, and that now as in the past there are those who distrust the power of the printed page. There are others who would hedge books about with a divinity, and thus prevent their general use. The aristocracy of letters, like other aristocracies, is disinclined to surrender its privilege to the many.

"But the fear of the book as a disturber of the peace is in itself a witness to the power of the book, if a good book, in the opposite direction. The use of good books promotes community of action and dissipates ignorance and prejudice, and the larger tolerance of the present as compared with the past is in no small part due to the influence of such books. Books thus become the connecting link between the historic past and the living present, between the world of thought and the world of deed. And their usefulness in this way is open to all through the medium of the public library.

"Professor Jevons once pointed out in an effective paragraph the wider opportunity which such a library affords. 'If a beautiful picture is hung in a private house,' he said, 'it may be gazed at by a few guests a score or two of times in the year. If it is hung in a public gallery it will be enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of persons whose glances, it need hardly be said, do not wear out the canvas. The same principle applies to books in common ownership. If a man possesses a library of a few thousand volumes, by far the greater part of them must be for years untouched upon the shelves; he cannot possibly use more than a fraction of the whole in any one year. But a public library of five or ten thousand volumes may be used a thousand times as much. It is a striking case of what I call the multiplication of utility.'

"The Laurentian library was and still is the possession of the few; the great nobles created it, and it represents an intellectual world from which the many were excluded. Its books were chained to the reading desks, and these still remain as types of mediaeval exclusiveness. But this branch, like your central library, like the public library of to-day everywhere, is

for all, that all may have an equal opportunity to share in the intellectual benefits which books confer.

"The public library is therefore in the highest degree representative of democratic thought and aspiration. It is in this way set apart from all other libraries. It is above all else a modern institution of an advanced type, instinct with life and movement. Its office is not merely to keep literature from perishing, although it should preserve with especial care the literary records of local history and of current events. But it is established chiefly to make books instruments of human welfare and a broader culture among the weaker folk, the men and women who make up the rank and file of our great industrial towns and cities. Not merely to pass on the torch from generation to generation, but to let its light shine here and now, illumining minds heretofore dark. This, above all other functions, is its prime duty, and in doing this it renders its highest service to the community.

"That the public library may be of the greatest possible usefulness, its agencies are multiplied. Its books are lent with as little formality as possible to the schools, and to other public institutions and to study classes. A central collection is no longer sufficient to meet the public need. Branches and delivery stations bring the books close to the reader and open them to wider public use. Each branch becomes an intellectual centre for its own district. The residents of the neighborhood may regard the branch as their special library. Here they may acquire the love of books as a source of innocent enjoyment, the help of books in the development of intellectual power and in the enrichment of life. Here, too, the children will soon know the custodian as counselor and friend. Here they will find, no doubt, a carefully-selected collection of such books as children love,—stories, travels, history, biography, and nature books. The advantages which a few exceptionally favored children now have at home, this branch will freely offer to all children. Some one has said that a great love of books is like a personal introduction to the great and good of all times. This personal introduction the public library through all its agencies aims to give to those who will accept its ministrations.

"Through such a branch as this, those who administer the library come into closer personal relations with those who use it than is otherwise possible. The librarian who is to have charge here will soon know you intimately. She will have opportunities to discover your personal needs in regard to books and to supply them.

"Through this multiplication of its agencies for distribution, the public library confers unquestioned benefits upon the individual citizen, but it does not exist primarily for the individual. Its only warrant for maintenance as a civic institution is that through the benefits received by the individual larger community benefits result.

"Its work with the children, its aid to the artisan and mechanic in enlarging their industrial efficiency, its benefits to the general reader who comes to it for relaxation from the activities of our sometimes too strenuous industrial and business life,—these finally broaden into social benefits, as those who use the opportunities it offers become better fitted to meet and mingle in their various civic relations.

"The idea still persists that, since the great libraries of the world, however useful, were principally used by scholars or literary folk, so the public library is mainly for the few. That was not the idea which inspired those who originated it. They intended by means of it to carry still farther our system of popular education.

"The public schools exist not for the benefit of the individual, but for the benefit of the community. From that point of view the sort of education given in them is to be considered. And as Dr. Richardson, the scholarly librarian of Princeton University, once put it, 'A public library exists not for the benefit it will be to John Smith, but for the benefit the benefiting of John Smith will be to the community. It is because John Smith's improvement is of value to the community as a whole that taxation is justifiable for the support of libraries, no less than for the schools.' That, I am sure, is also the view of Mr. Carnegie in his gifts to these institutions.

"This conception of the purpose of such libraries helps in the solution of various problems of management. Take the question of the selection of books for your more or less incompletely-filled shelves. Shall demand be the guide? Shall the book asked for by the largest number be the one bought? Let us see. 'If a book used by John Smith only will benefit the community more than another used by fifty or 100 persons, that book is the more suitable for purchase. For the value of a book to the community does not necessarily depend upon the number of persons who use it, but upon the net product of value growing out of the increased social efficiency of, it may be, the one person only who uses it.' The value of the public library, therefore, as a civic institution depends upon the success with which it promotes, through all its agencies, 'common honesty, common sentiment, common happiness, and common action.'

"You can only get the best out of it by using it. This youngest library in the world is meant for use. For that purpose it is established directly at your doors. It is the friendly hand of the greater institution on the hill yonder, reaching out for the especial welfare of this part of your city. Things not fully used, no matter how valuable, become to that extent merely a burden. There is an old New England phrase that designates the possessor of unused land, which is merely a source of expense for taxes without bringing in revenue, as 'land poor.' The equipment of such a library as this, if not

utilized, becomes of no more value than such unused land, and these books, if not read, might as well be burned, or chained up, as of old in that grand Laurentian library.

"Are you interested in any special subject? Would you like to have a wider knowledge of the world's progress and history, or of the great changes that have occurred in scientific thought during the last fifty years? Or something about the growth of our great industries? Or perhaps something of the literature of your own trade or profession? Or become acquainted with at least a few of the great writers? This branch will contain something for you among these subjects. It is established and will be maintained to help you. If you want anything that it can furnish, ask for it. The custodian is here partly to respond to your queries. If you ask questions that she cannot immediately answer, which is possible, she will, no doubt, if given opportunity, find answers. If you want a book which is not here, no doubt it will be obtained for you upon request, or perhaps a better one substituted for it.

"Speaking of the influence of books in disseminating advanced ideas, Voltaire remarks: 'Twenty-volume folios will never cause a revolution. It is the little portable volumes . . . that are to be feared.' It is, I think, true that the little portable volumes are the ones to be loved. You have a great advantage in a library like this, since its books, like its building, are new. The collection, as it grows from day to day, need contain nothing that is not immediately useful in the world of the present. The foundations of the great libraries are often laid with great books, too ponderous to read, heavy literature in every sense. That repository of curious information, 'In a Club Corner,' recounts that the first books given to Dartmouth College were of this kind, old folios, some of them two feet long, eighteen inches wide, and six inches thick. 'An old librarian of the college has said that these old folios were never read. Those who affected to know more than their classmates took them out. One learned senior told him he always had three charged to him, one for a footstool, one for a cushion for his chair, and one for his water pail to rest on.'

"Here there is lacking the flavor of antiquity, and books will not be bought for hoarding behind glass cases, or for the beauty of their bindings. There is little of the sentiment that lingers within the walls of the old libraries, where through the ages studious men have walked, and pondered, and dreamed, written their poem, or essay, or sermon for the benefit of their fellows, lived their short lives, and passed away; old libraries, like the Laurentian, with its priceless treasures, or the Bodleian, the oldest library in England, where the sun streams through the high windows upon the dark old volumes of forgotten lore.

" 'But there is one glory of the sun, and another glory of

the moon, and another glory of the stars, for one star differeth from another star in glory.' It is the proud distinction of this newest library that, without the beauty that is consecrated by time, without the treasures of art and literature that the world rightly counts among its dearest possessions, it nevertheless stands as an efficient agency in hastening the dawn of a new day. It possesses the glory of present service rather than that of past achievement. This branch would have never come into being except for the intellectual treasures which those older libraries contain; but its peculiar office is to turn into popular channels the life-giving stream that springs perennially from the ancient fountains.

"Contrasting these volumes in active use, few though they may be, and of little value as compared with the splendid collections of the great libraries or the beautifully-bound volumes of the private collector, I leave with you the hope that by using them you may have towards them something of the feeling that Dobson expresses as to the books in his own library:—

"'They dwell in the odour of camphor,
They stand in a Sheraton shrine,
They are "warranted early editions,"
Those worshipful tomes of mine;—

"'In their creamiest "Oxford vellum,"
In their redolent "crushed Levant,"
With their delicate watered linings,
They are jewels of price, I grant;—

"'Blind-tooled and morocco-jointed,
They have Zaehnsdorf's daintiest dress,
They are graceful, attenuate, polished,
But they gather the dust, no less;—

"'For the row that I prize is yonder,
Away on the unglazed shelves,
The bulged and bruised octavos,
The dear and the dumpy twelves,—

"'Montaigne with his sheepskin blistered,
And Howell the worse for wear,
And the worm-drilled Jesuits' Horace,
And the little old cropped Molière,

"'And the Burton I bought for a florin,
And the Rabelais foxed and flea'd,—
For the others I never have opened,
But those are the books I read.'"

1 19

38th Annual Report

of the

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

Trustees of the Public Library

of the

City of Somerville

Massachusetts

1910

*H



THIRTY-EIGHTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Trustees of the Public Library

:RVILLE

S

Compliments of the

Trustees of the Public Library.

910



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT
1911

Assistants.

A. Myrtle Merrill.
Ruby G. White.
A. Lisette Parker.
Helen Spear.
Myrtle Nicholson.
Zoe E. Nelson.

Attendants.

Edgar L. Kaula.
Harry B. Benson.
Richard Barlow.
Oscar Cederlund.

Janitor.

Charles A. Southwick.

WEST SOMERVILLE BRANCH.

Branch Librarian.

Alice W. Sears.

Assistants.

Ethel M. Nute.
Bessie S. Cobb.
Ruth Fales.
Annie M. Currie.

Attendants.

Ronald Moore.
Harold Currie.

Janitor.

Thomas O'Day.

PUBLIC LIBRARY ACCOUNT.

Receipts and Expenditures for 1910.

CREDIT.

Appropriation	$17,000 00
Dog tax	4,085 76
School contingent fund	19 29
Fines, etc.	827 03
Total	$21,932 08

DEBIT.

Books and periodicals	$7,841 44
Binding	2,293 85
Cards	115 43
Printing	572 04
Stationery	89 17
Salaries	9,550 83
Agencies	339 26
Express	215 80
Postage	20 00
Telephone	57 84
Supplies	138 82
Binders	21 10
A. L. A. membership	5 00
Repairs	1 45
Insurance	135 00
Disbursements	87 61
Labor	50 76
Furniture	162 00
Bookcase	40 00
Cabinets	59 00
Dictionary stands	10 00
Typewriter	77 00
Stamp	2 50
Stereographs	33 68
Photograph	2 50
Ice	10 00
Total	$21,932 08

West Somerville Branch.

CREDIT.

Appropriation	$4,000 00
Special fund for books	1,000 00
Fines, etc.	381 47
Total	$5,381 47

DEBIT.

Books and periodicals	$3,095 97
Binding	420 31
Cards	8 00
Printing	41 10
Amount carried forward	$3,565 38

Amount brought forward	$3,565 38
Stationery	13 13
Salaries	1,628 94
Express	44 70
Telephone	29 60
Postage	1 00
Supplies	23 53
Binders	12 30
Cabinet	48 50
Dictionary stand	5 00
Ice	9 20
	$5,381 28
Balance	19
Total	$5,381 47

Isaac Pitman Art Fund.

CREDIT.

Balance from 1909	$127 27
Interest July 1, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	80 00
Interest December 31, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	80 00
Interest accruing on deposits July 1	5 02
Total	$292 29

DEBIT.

Books and pictures purchased in 1910	$119 77
Balance carried to 1911	172 52
Total	$292 29

Isaac Pitman Poetry Fund.

CREDIT.

Balance carried from 1909	$34 26
Interest July 1, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	20 00
Interest December 31, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	20 00
Interest accruing on deposits July 1	1 26
Total	$75 52

DEBIT.

Books purchased in 1910	$35 80
Balance carried to 1911	39 72
Total	$75 52

Frances A. Wilder Fund.

Interest accruing on deposit of $100	$6 15

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To the Honorable, the Mayor, and the Board of Aldermen of the City of Somerville:—

Gentlemen,—The thirty-eighth annual report of the trustees of the public library is herewith respectfully submitted.

The report of the librarian is grouped with this more general cursory report, and to the former your honorable body is referred for a detailed and statistical statement of the operation of the library for the year.

The affairs of the library, while they are now in a healthy condition, have been very much upset during the past year. At the very outset we suffered a severe loss by the retirement of our president, Dr. Edward C. Booth, whose invaluable services the library had enjoyed for so many years. Our next misfortune was the long and severe illness of our librarian, Sam Walter Foss. Almost coincident with this came a severe outbreak of scarlet fever, which necessitated the closing of both libraries. Together with this came the illness of the assistant librarian, Miss Florence D. Hurter, and her resignation. All of these misfortunes made the work of the library very difficult; the prompt assistance of one of our own board, William L. Barber, did much to lighten the burden. Permanent relief came with the transfer of Miss Nellie M. Whipple from the branch to the main library. It was with great regret that Miss Whipple's valuable work at the branch was interrupted—still her splendid success at the main library has more than demonstrated the wisdom of the change.

Miss Alice W. Sears, who rendered valuable service at the main library, was placed in charge of the branch, and the choice has proved a happy one.

There is never a loss without a compensating gain. The closing of the buildings gave us the much-needed opportunity to thoroughly clean and renovate the main library, and this, with the kind assistance of the building commissioner, Walter T. Littlefield, was thoroughly done. Every book in the library was taken down and thoroughly cleaned, the shelves, floors, and woodwork of the building thoroughly washed, the tables, chairs, and desks were varnished, and the whole building put in perfect order. At the same time we were enabled to make a complete inventory of the books.

Several important improvements have been made in the buildings, notably the separate entrance into the children's department; formerly the children were obliged to enter the building and pass through the main reading room to the basement. This was a source of great annoyance to those persons

who used the reading room. New shelving has been added to the children's room, together with two new tables and chairs. A new table has been added to the binding room and much needed additional heating facilities placed in the new stack room. The space between the new and old buildings has been concreted. Stands for dictionaries have been added to both buildings, and separate cabinets for the cataloguing of foreign books and for music, also a new machine for typewriting has been purchased. New shelving has been added to the East Somerville agency, and new stacks and shelving for the reference room at the branch. With the special appropriation nearly 1,000 volumes of standard worth were added to the branch library.

With the multitude of books on the market and the shrewdness of the advertising publishers, the choice of suitable books for a public library is a very difficult one, and greater care than ever has been exercised in the selection of books. No book is allowed to enter circulation until it has been passed upon by a member of the board of trustees.

The open shelf system continues to be successful and the loss of books trifling.

With the limited means at our disposal, we do not recommend the extension of library facilities in other sections of the city. When the proper time comes, we would recommend the establishment of reading rooms in the Union-square district and at East Somerville.

The phenomenal growth of the branch library has continued to be a source of wonderment and of great satisfaction to the trustees. To carry on this work and to meet the ever-increasing demands of this rapidly-growing section of the city, a much larger appropriation will be necessary.

Nearly 200 years before the Christian era, Plautus wrote: "Each man reaps on his own farm." And we certainly, in spite of our various drawbacks, have reaped a rich harvest on our farm.

Our thanks are due to the staff of both libraries for their splendid co-operation in this most trying year of the library's existence.

Respectfully submitted for the board of trustees,

THOMAS M. DURELL,
President.

December 27, 1910.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:—

I herewith submit the librarian's thirty-eighth annual report. Following my usual custom, I append a somewhat detailed statement of the work done by each department:—

The Cataloguing Department.

The cataloguing department, under the supervision of Miss Esther M. Mayhew, has performed a much larger amount of work than has ever been done before in the history of the library.

As will be seen by the detailed statement given below, the library system of Somerville has purchased over 9,000 books; this, for a library the size of Somerville's and for the size of the city, is a very remarkable record. If the same rate of increase should continue for a period of ten years, nearly as many books would be purchased during that time as now belong to the library. Considering the rapidity of the growth of the library, there is but little doubt that for the whole period of ten years this ratio of growth will be kept up. Of course this will bring up perpetually the old problem of over-crowded shelves, which must be met by the careful exclusion of worn-out, useless, and obsolete books; but the best way to solve the over-crowded problem is to keep the books distributed in very many localities,—in the branch, in the schools, in the Sunday schools, in the police stations, the fire engine houses, the hospital, and the various charitable institutions of the city. One of the best ways to keep down the over-crowded shelves is a large and quick circulation.

It has been necessary this year to put considerable extra help at the disposal of Miss Mayhew, in order that her work might be accomplished with any degree of promptness. When we take into consideration the wholesale way in which books have been thrown into her department, she has done remarkably well. Miss Duddy, from the beginning of the branch library, has done the shelf listing for that institution. A complete catalogue of music books in the library has been prepared during the past year, also a complete catalogue of the foreign books in the library. These catalogues are installed in two attractive cabinets in the general delivery room.

In addition to their regular work, the cataloguing department took an inventory of the entire library, with the following results:—

Books missing by inventory of 1910:—

	Main.	Branch.	Total.
[illegible]	228	9	237
[illegible]	5	0	5
[illegible]	156	10	166
Total	389	19	408

Below are given the general statistics of this department:—

Books Added.

[illegible] number January 1, 1911		108,105
[illegible]		117,674
Total number added during 1911 —		
[illegible]	7,121	
[illegible]	2,448	
Total		9,569
[illegible] new [illegible] library		6,067
[illegible]		3,502
Total number withdrawn		19,510
Total number in library —		
[illegible]	88,921	
[illegible]	9,243	
Total		98,164

Books Withdrawn.

[illegible]	1,646
[illegible]	72
[illegible]	57
[illegible] Board of Health	53
Total number of books withdrawn	1,828
Total number of books withdrawn to January 1, 1910	17,682
[illegible] during 1911	1,828
Total	19,510

[illegible] have been purchased from the Library of [illegible].

Binding.

	Main.	Branch.	Total.
[illegible]	3,896	748	4,644
[illegible]	324		324
[illegible]	52		52
[illegible]	47		47
Total	4,316	748	5,064

Children's Department.

The children's department, Miss Anna L. Stone, librarian, has had a circulation of [illegible] fiction and 12,483 other works, making a total of [illegible]. It may be interesting to know that of the "other works" circulated, General Works were 1,134; Philosophy, [illegible]; Religion, [illegible]; Sociology, 2,471; Philology, 176; Natural Science, 813; Useful Arts, 299; Fine Arts, 843; Literature, 2,871; Travel, History, and Biography, 4,085.

Although there has been some decrease in the circulation

of the children's room, this is directly traceable to the establishment of the branch library at West Somerville. As has been detailed by the president in his report, several important improvements have been made in the room, and one, an entrance directly from the outside, is a matter which has long been desired and for which there was urgent need.

The School Department.

The school department, Miss Mary S. Woodman, librarian, finds an increasing amount of work to be performed each year. Miss Woodman has been somewhat hampered in her work in the past because she was not able to give sufficient time to the direct management of her department. At present, however, she devotes her time almost exclusively to school work, and has started one or two innovations which we hope will result well.

She has prepared a course of lectures to be delivered before the teachers of Somerville upon the work of her department, as well as upon the broader general work of the whole library. In order to give an idea of the scope of her lecture plan, the subjects she will consider this year are as follows:—

I. Classification and shelf arrangement. The principle of the decimal system and its use in the Somerville library. How and where the books are to be found.

II. The dictionary catalogue—its purpose and arrangement. What it tells and how to get at it.

III. Magazine indexes and books of general reference. The quickest way to find what you want. Some out-of-the-way sources of information.

IV. Resources of the library on topics of interest to teachers. Educational books and magazines. Illustrated books of travel. Books on literature, art, etc.

V. Evaluation of books. What we may learn from standing of authors and publishing house, date of issue, etc. Helpful lists on various topics.

VI. Direction of children's reading. Aids in selection. Sending children to the library for study. Discussion of some children's books, good, bad, and indifferent.

The library has long had in view a catalogue of the books in the school department, and it is possible, if the cost of printing is not prohibitive, Miss Woodman may now accomplish this work.

There are a great many well-known and inspiring poems which are frequently called for by teachers and which the library can only furnish by giving out a complete volume for each poem. With the assistance of the school department, which will probably do the neostyling, Miss Woodman hopes to obtain enough of these poems, each printed singly, to supply the needs of the teachers. The school department and the Somerville schools are working together with great harmony, for which we, on our part, have to thank the superintendent,

Charles W. Clark and the various teachers, many of whom are exercising [illegible] in the work.

As will be noted, there has been a very desirable increase in the work, the number of books in the library, and the general prosperity of this department.

Below are the statistics of this department for the year:—

[illegible]	9,045
[illegible] during year	771
[illegible]	155
[illegible]	165
[illegible]	6,487
[illegible]	7,568
[illegible] during year—	
[illegible]	49,628
[illegible]	74,563
[illegible]	124,191

The Reference and Art Department.

The reference and art department, under the supervision of Miss Mabel E. Parker, has performed its regular work. There is not much opportunity for anything spectacular in the management of the reference room, but a great deal of work is frequently required to answer an apparently simple question. These questions are coming with greater frequency than ever. Some time I hope it may be found feasible to have a regular reference room telephone, and for the public to be invited to use it when it so desires. This has already been done by some newspapers, notably the Baltimore Sun; but it would seem to be a function of a public institution supported by public funds to do this kind of work. It would be in keeping with the progressive tendencies of the times.

Below is given the monthly attendance for the year:—

January	615
February	800
March	966
April	988
May	411
June	519
July	191
August	440
September	520
October	662
November	1,015
December	561
Total	7,688
Number of registered visitors to Art Room	203
" " " " " Americana Room	87
Total	290

This does not give the complete number of persons who use the books in the Art and Americana rooms, as many books are brought to the main reference room to be consulted there.

Number of volumes in Reference and Art Department	10,418
Increase of volumes during the year	425
Number of volumes rebound	78

During the year there have been fifteen art exhibitions, as follows:—

Wells Cathedral.
Yellowstone National Park, Pt. 1.
Etchings by William Unger, No. 3. (Chiefly Modern German and Austrian, with seven Italian and Spanish.)
Historic Dress in America.
Photographs of American Parks (from our collection).
Italian Fountains.
Madonna in Art.
Pictures for Children, by Randolph Caldecott.
Jamaica.
Photographs of American Parks (from our collection).
Rulers of Italy, with some Historical Comparisons.
Photographs (our collection).
Naples, No. 1, From Naples to Paestum.
Colored Illustrations Made by Coupil from Living Models Showing 1908, 1909, and 1910 Styles in Parisian Gowns.
Etchings by William Unger, No. 1, Dutch Art. (Chiefly Rembrandt and His School.)

Some of the books purchased during the year for this department:—

Auge, Claude, pub., Le Larousse Pour Tous Nouveau Dictionaire Encyclopédique, 6v.
Chaucer, Works of, ed. by Skeat, 6v.
Clarke, Maud N., Nature's Own Garden.
Cundall, H. M., History of British Water Color Painting.
Cutter, W. R., Genealogy—Boston and Eastern Massachusetts, 4v.
Cyclopedia of Commerce, Accountancy, Business Administration, 10v.
Duncan, J. H. Elder, Country Cottages and Week-End Homes.
Edwards, G. W., Brittany and the Bretons.
Fletcher, Hanslip, Oxford and Cambridge.
Gauss, H. C., The American Government.
Hichens, Robert, The Holy Land.
Hunt, W. H., Pre-Raphaelitism and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, 2v.
Lockwood, L. V., Colonial Furniture in America.
Masterpieces in Color (29v. in series).
Modes and Manners of the Nineteenth Century, 3v.
National Gallery (7v. in series).
Nelson Encyclopedia (loose leaf), 12v.
New Century Book of Facts.
Pennell, Elizabeth R., French Cathedrals.
Seidlitz, W. von, History of Japanese Color Prints.
Sturgis, Russell, The Artist's Way of Working, 2v.
Thayer, G. H., Concealing Coloration in the Animal Kingdom.
Webb, W. M., Heritage of Dress.
Williams, L., Arts and Crafts in Older Spain, 3v.
Wodiska, J., A Book of Precious Stones.

Binding.

Since Miss Sears has assumed the position of branch librarian, the bindery department, which was really founded and

The general circulation figures of the year are as follows:—

	Fiction.	Other Works.	Total.
January	21,457	12,439	33,896
February	23,963	14,199	38,162
March	30,782	17,852	48,634
April	22,753	13,502	36,255
May	18,963	11,295	30,258
June	17,952	7,673	25,625
July	14,982	3,035	18,017
August	18,369	3,599	21,968
September	14,382	4,500	18,882
October	18,833	9,216	28,049
November	26,874	15,456	42,330
December	21,095	12,533	33,628
Total	250,405	125,299	375,704

Below is given our shelf circulation figures (books delivered from library shelves):—

	Fiction.	Other Works.	Total.
January	12,851	4,123	16,974
February	15,446	5,355	20,801
March	19,530	6,786	26,316
April	14,194	4,663	18,857
May	10,721	3,635	14,356
June	13,282	3,383	16,665
July	12,954	2,720	15,674
August	15,684	3,191	18,875
September	11,002	3,374	14,376
October	12,034	4,348	16,382
November	16,595	5,982	22,577
December	12,197	4,073	16,180
Total	166,490	51,633	218,033

Below is given our circulation by classes, exclusive of fiction:—

General works	7,106
Philosophy	1,435
Religion	6,982
Sociology	22,859
Philology	1,456
Natural science	15,663
Useful arts	4,926
Fine arts	8,058
Literature	15,874
History	28,457
Total of general delivery	112,816
Delivered from children's room	12,483
Total of other works	125,299
Fiction	250,405
Other works	125,299
Total	375,704
Percentage, fiction	67%
" other works	33%

Below are given the circulation figures of main library and West Somerville branch:—

Fiction:—	
Main library	250,405
West Somerville branch	91,496
Total	341,901
Other works:—	
Main library	125,299
West Somerville branch	22,163
Total	147,462
Fiction	341,901
Other works	147,462
Total	489,363

As will be seen from the above, the total circulation of the year is 489,363. Undoubtedly if the library had not been closed in April on account of the scarlet fever epidemic, we should have reached the half-million mark the present year. Only nineteen libraries in the United States have a circulation in excess of the half-million mark. Perhaps, in proportion to the number of our books, our circulation is as large as any library in the country.

Percentage, fiction	70%
" other works	30%

Below is the statistical statement of the general work of the year:—

Accession number			117,674
	Main.	Branch.	Total.
Volumes in library	88,921	9,243	98,164
" added	7,121	2,448	9,569
" discarded	1,743	85	1,828
Total circulation	375,704	113,659	489,363
Shelf "	218,033	113,659	331,692
Children's room circulation	66,513	28,324	94,837
Cards issued	3,414	1,440	4,854
Delivered from East Somerville agency		24	
" " " " shelves		12,159	
" " South Somerville agency		2,410	
" " Union Square agency		52	
" " " " shelves		8,421	
" " West Somerville branch		659	
" " Knapp school		706	
Volumes delivered to school libraries		7,568	
Volumes delivered to Sunday schools, clubs, hospitals, etc.		1,559	
Visitors in reference room		7,688	
Vacation cards issued		438	
Received, fines	$899.95		
" books	102.64		
" telephone	7.02		
Total	$1,009.61		

[illegible]	$122.58
[illegible]	27.03
[illegible]	$1,[illegible]9.61

During the year 6[illegible] vacation cards were issued, on which [illegible] were taken out, [illegible] being fiction and 344 other works. Thirty-six sets of stereographs are now owned by the library. The circulation of these sets during the year amounted to [illegible].

The following Sunday schools take books from the library: First Methodist, Broadway Methodist, East Somerville Methodist, Highland Congregational, Prospect Congregational, Randall Memorial, Second Advent, Second Unitarian, West Somerville Baptist, Winter-hill Congregational, and Winter-hill Universalist.

Books are also sent to the fire stations, industrial school, Home for the Aged, police station, Somerville Boys' Club, Somerville Hospital, and St. Joseph's Alumni Association. There were [illegible] books sent to the various Sunday schools, clubs, etc., of which [illegible] were fiction and 234 other works.

Suggestions.

Several recommendations, as will have been noted, have been made in the various departments. But there are a few suggestions I would like to formally make here.

I think it would tend toward more efficient service in the public library if the new assistants should start in at a salary of $[illegible] per year rather than $200. Two hundred dollars is really not a living rate of wages, and it is difficult to obtain young ladies of a proper calibre to fill these places. There are other increases in salaries that should be made; but I realize that your board is eager to do along this line all that the means at your disposal will permit.

There is another recommendation I desire to make, which, if carried out, it seems to me would tend greatly to the efficiency of the library service. This is the removal of the door between the reading room and the north stack, and the stationing of a member of the staff at a desk, where the present door is, who could have oversight of the reading room and at the same time of the stack. There are several reasons for this which appeal to me strongly. In the first place, it was never intended that this archway should be closed up. The rough temporary partition which I have dignified by the name of door is, of course, not a door at all, and was merely put there temporarily to shut off the view of the unfinished stack room. It will be remembered that this stack room was not finished for a year or two after the rest of the new addition was completed. The great benefit that would result from this opening would be the benefit of oversight of two important parts of the library, the

reading room and the stack containing all the works of the library under the divisions of Philosophy, Religion, Philology, Sociology, Natural Science, Fine Arts, and Useful Arts. In addition to this, all the bound periodicals are in this wing and our musical collection. Since the renovation of the library last May, the great department of literature has been transferred to this wing.

Now this wing of the library has never been patronized by the public as it should be. Without special search, it is invisible to the casual visitor at the library. As a matter of fact, hundreds of visitors who come to the library regularly never enter this stack. It is unknown territory to them. If the partition were taken down it could be easily seen that there is a large collection of books in this part of the library, and the special attendant could be of service to all visitors in making selections.

The library of late has been making unusual efforts to decrease the amount of noise and confusion in the library building. The removal of the children's entrance to another part of the building has helped out this matter to a great degree; but it is our wish to take further precautions. An attendant could preserve order in the reading room and see to it that quiet should always prevail there. The reading room has never had any direct oversight, and this has been a matter of regret to the librarian and his staff for many years. This would furnish the oversight for which we have so long felt the need.

Of course this archway would not be the general entrance and exit. It would simply be an entrance to people using the reading room. The young lady in charge of this desk would be doing regular clerical work while not engaged in otherwise serving the public, and no extra help need be hired for the service. So there would be no extra cost.

I hope your board may carefully consider this recommendation.

The library has received the following donations of books, pamphlets, and periodicals during the past year:—

List of Donations.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Periods.
Abbot, E. Stanley	2		
Acheson Oildag Co.	1		
Aldrich, E., and Batchellor, A. S.	1		
American Telephone and Telegraph Co.		1	
Amherst College	2		
Arnold, Allen		1	
Booth, Edward C., M. D.	8		
Boston, Mass.	1		
Bowman, Ethel	1		
Brown, Mrs. Abram E.	1		
Brown Alumni Monthly	1		
Brown University	1		
Chase, Mabel J.		1	
Children's Institutions Department		1	
Clark, George H.	10		
Dalton, Mrs. Adelaide A.	1		
Dartmouth College	1		
Dennison, Mrs. E. W.	1		
Deutsche Bank, Berlin	1		
Dryden, John F.	1		
Durrell, Harold Clarke	2		
Edison Electric Illuminating Co.	1		
Foss, Sam Walter	2		
Gillette, King C.	1		
Gilman, Emma A.	2		
Gordon, Hanford L.	1		
Greene, J. D.	1		
Guild, Hon. Curtis		1	
Hadley, S. Henry	19		
Harvard University	2		
Homan, J. A.	1		
Hubbard, Elbert		1	
Indian Rights Association		2	
Iowa State Library	1		
Lawrence, Sir Edwin Durning	1		
Lee, Thomas Z.	1		
Library of Congress	3		
Lummis, Charles F.		1	
Massachusetts	33	2	
Melvin, James C.	1		
Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board	1		
Middlesex County	1		
Mitchell, J. M.	1		
Moffat, R. Burnham	1		
Moore, Clarence B.	4		
National Child Labor Commission	1		
New Bedford Textile School	1		
New York State School for the Blind		1	
Oberlin College, Ohio		1	
Ohio State Library		1	
Ohio Wesleyan University	1		
Pennsylvania Prison Association		1	
Perkins Institution for the Blind	1		
Carried forward	118	15	

LIST OF DONATIONS.—Concluded.

	Vols.	Pamph.	Periods.
Brought forward	118	15	
Public Libraries	1	102	
Publicity Club, Minnesota	1		
Randall, Charles F.		1	
Riverton Press	1		
Russ, George H.	26		
Salem Press	1		
Smithsonian Institution	1		
Somerville, Mass.	1		
Standard Oil Co.	4		
Tilton Seminary		2	
Tufts College	1		
United States	22		
United States Brewers' Association	2		
Valentine, H. E.			12
Westborough, Mass.		1	
Western Reserve University		1	
Western Theological Seminary	1	1	
Wood, Miss Katharine	1		
Totals	181	123	12

West Somerville Branch Library.

Upon the appointment of Miss Nellie M. Whipple, former branch librarian, to the position of assistant librarian at the main library, Miss Alice W. Sears was appointed branch librarian to succeed Miss Whipple, and I am very glad to say that she has carried forward the work with great efficiency.

The West Somerville branch library has really been a phenomenal success from its very opening. The amount of business done in this institution has been a surprise even to those of us who predicted a large work in this locality. There are many cities of considerable size whose main libraries, some of them established for many years, do not perform as much work for the public or have nearly as large a circulation as we have in our West Somerville branch.

The people in the western part of the city are very loyal to the branch library, and each one seems to take an individual interest in its success. It does not seem like a branch library. It seems like a main library.

The call upon the resources of this branch has been so great that we deem ourselves fortunate that we were enabled, through the generosity of the board of aldermen, to expend $2,500, more than was at first called for in the annual budget, and $1,000 of this money was granted us on condition that it should be used for the purchase of new books. These books were bought last summer under the charge of a committee con-

sisting of Messrs. Barber, Hamilton, and Noyes; and they are books of real excellence and add materially to the resources of the library. They are greatly appreciated by the library's patrons.

Already the old question of over-crowding has come up in this new branch, and there is no doubt that at an early date the children's room should be transferred to some other part of the building. This could be done, but it would be a matter of some expense, by finishing the room in the basement. This would segregate the children from the older patrons, and relieve them from the noise and confusion that now must necessarily prevail at certain hours of the day.

Below is given in detail the statistics of the work accomplished:—

	Fiction.	Other Works.	Total.
January	6,540	1,609	8,149
February	7,341	1,964	9,305
March	9,964	2,619	12,583
April	7,380	1,882	9,262
May	5,938	1,529	7,467
June	6,916	1,493	8,409
July	6,478	1,243	7,721
August	7,924	1,611	9,535
September	7,113	1,446	8,559
October	7,872	1,762	9,634
November	10,592	3,064	13,656
December	7,438	1,941	9,379
	91,496	22,163	113,659

Below is given circulation by classes, exclusive of fiction:—

General works	7,410
Philosophy	374
Religion	345
Sociology	524
Philology	18
Natural science	585
Useful arts	785
Fine arts	1,234
Literature	2,097
History	2,645
Total of general delivery	15,997
Delivered from children's room	6,166
Total of other works	22,163
Fiction	91,496
Other works	22,163
Total	113,659
Percentage, fiction	80%
" other works	20%

The branch library has received the following donations of books during the past year:—

	Vols.
Anonymous	3
Clark, George H.	12
Cobb, Bessie S.	1
Edison Electric Illuminating Co.	1
Hamilton, F. W., D. D.	1
Lawrence, Sir Edwin Durning	1
Nason, George W.	1
Noyes, Marion I., and Ray, Blanche H.	1
Wallace, T. C.	1
Total	22

Conclusion.

I wish to convey my thanks to the members of the staff for their efficient service during a trying year.

I want, also, to take this occasion to thank your board for your uniform kindness to me through all my long illness during the past year. Your forbearance during my enforced absence from the library, at a time when my absence brought many extra burdens upon the members of your board, excites my heartfelt gratitude. Your personal acts of kindness to me, both as a board and as individuals, I greatly appreciate. I trust that you may not be obliged to put your forbearance to a much more extended test.

Respectfully submitted,

SAM WALTER FOSS,
Librarian.

December 27, 1910.



39th Annual Report

of the

Trustees of the Public Library

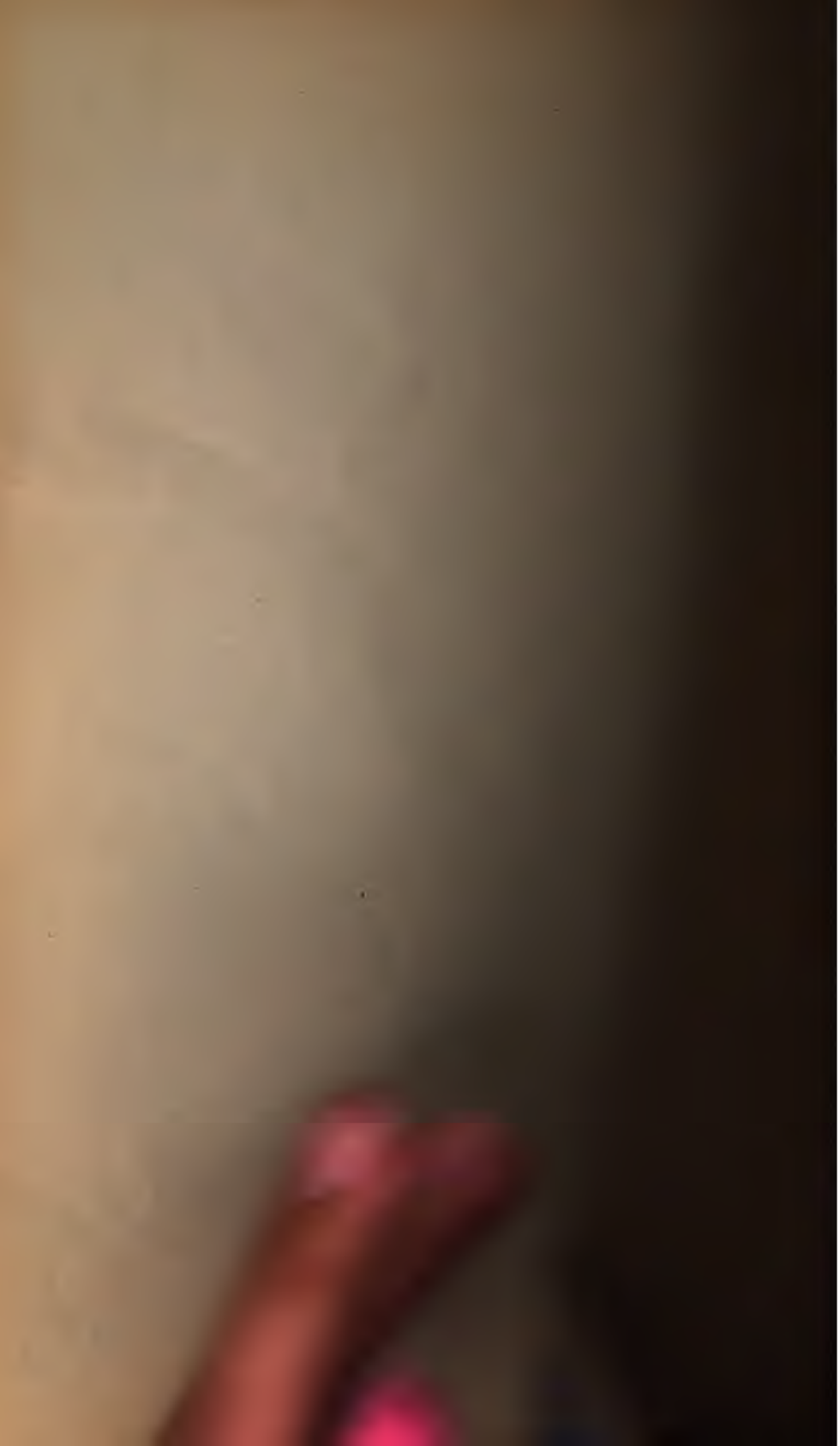
of the

City of Somerville

Massachusetts

for



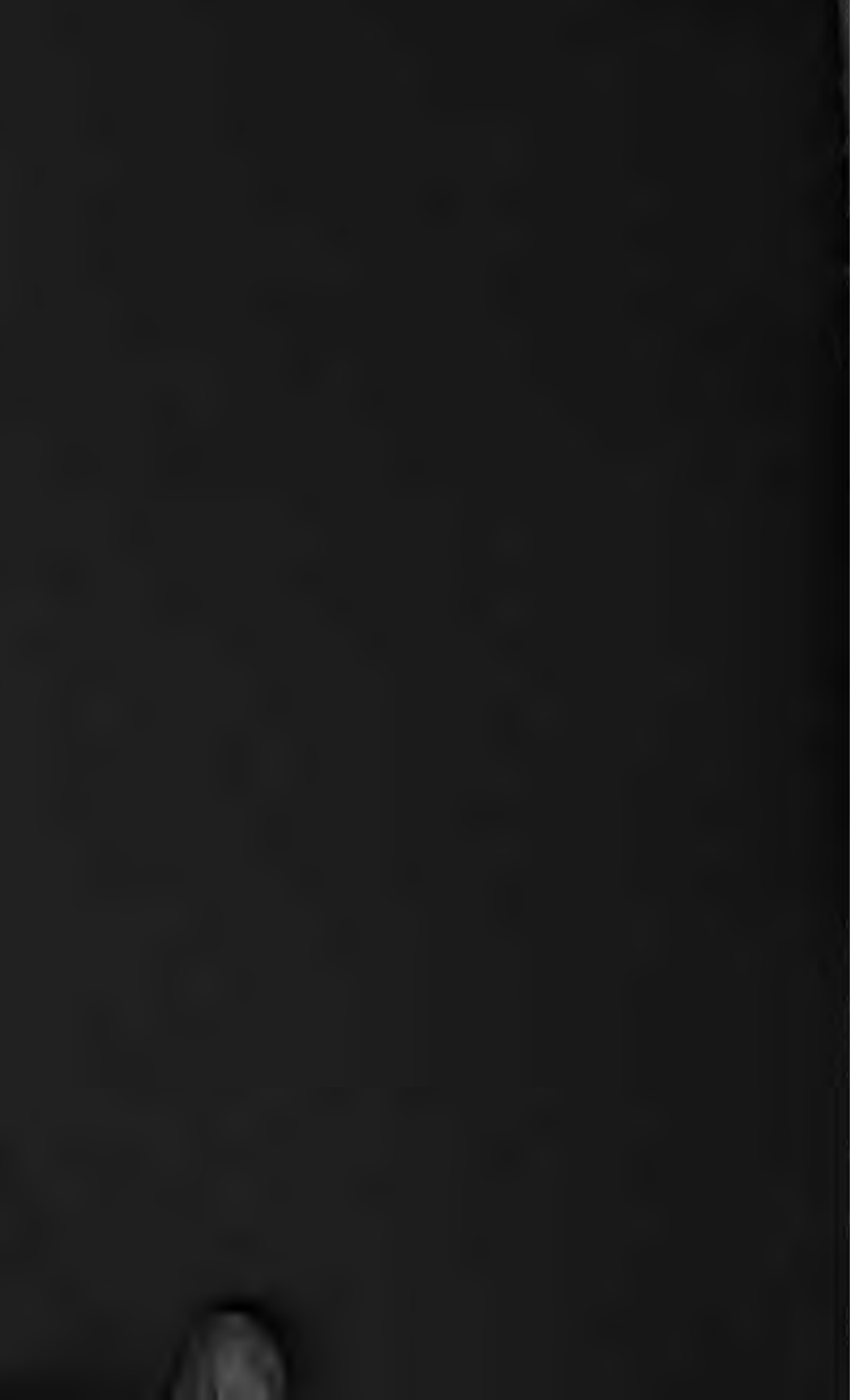


H

ORT



JOURNAL PRINT
1912



THIRTY-NINTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ry

Compliments of the

Trustees of the Public Library.



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT
1912



THIRTY-NINTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Compliments of the

Trustees of the Public Library.

SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT
1912



THIRTY-NINTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

rary

E

Compliments of the

Trustees of the Public Library.



SOMERVILLE JOURNAL PRINT
1912

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS.

Trustees.

THOMAS M. DURELL, M. D.
J. FRANK WELLINGTON.
FREDERICK W. PARKER.
WILLIAM L. BARBER.
CHARLES L. NOYES, D. D.
FREDERICK W. HAMILTON, D. D.
*WILLIAM H. BURGESS.
CHARLES M. AMBROSE.
GEORGE WHITING.
†WILLIAM H. DOLBEN.

Officers.

THOMAS M. DURELL, M. D. President
DREW B. HALL. Secretary

Committees.

Administration—Wellington, Parker, and Noyes.
Books and Catalogues—Noyes, Barber, Wellington, Hamilton, and Ambrose.
Buildings and Grounds—Burgess, Whiting, Ambrose, and Dolben.
Finance—Barber, Parker, Burgess, and Dolben.

*Resigned June, 1911.
†Qualified October 10, 1911, for unexpired term of Mr. Burgess.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To the Honorable, the Mayor, and the Board of Aldermen of the City of Somerville:—

Gentlemen,—The thirty-ninth annual report of the trustees of the public library is herewith respectfully submitted.

The year has been marked by the loss from his place of our librarian, Sam Walter Foss, of beloved memory. The library grew, under his charge, to great usefulness and power, and served this community both in study and in recreation. As his successor, Drew B. Hall has been chosen librarian.

Our public library must meet the needs of a great and increasing population, having in its proportion of readers and library users few equals in the country. For the first time the gross yearly circulation has exceeded half a million. To meet this demand all our resources have, by every possible device, been strained to the utmost. The accommodations of the central building have been in many ways readjusted better to serve readers and students and home users of books. Facility of distribution has been promoted by permitting the drawing of any reasonable number of books of non-fiction, by methods of renewing books by mail, telephone, or in person, and of reserving desired volumes. A selected and annotated list of 2,000 of the most used novels has been issued; and a very full and careful seventy-page catalogue listing the music scores and works about music both in the central and branch collections. The library staff and its work have been reorganized with a notable increase of competence and efficiency. A well-considered scheme for a graded service has been adopted, seeking to attract and develop a corps of assistants which shall be appointed, promoted, and retained for educational and technical qualifications and efficiency.

But after all is done, the library is fairly strangled, its work impaired, and its growth arrested by lack of sufficient and suitable accommodations at the central building. Years ago the trustees called attention to the increased difficulty of doing the library's business in its outgrown quarters. The growth since then, both of population and readers, has exceeded all expectation, so that relief from crowded conditions is immediately necessary. Though book stacks and shelves will hold but few more volumes, the worst crowding is in the accommodations offered the users of the building. The reading room seats but twenty-four (24) persons; the reference room is so isolated that few persons realize there is such a department; the art and Americana rooms, containing large and very valuable collec-

tions on these special subjects, were visited by but eighty-six and sixty-seven persons respectively during the twelve months of 1911. The increase in circulation has kept pace, during the last twenty-five years, with the increase of books, so that it is now seven times as great, but the use of the reference collection, for serious study, has not increased, for the accommodations in this department have not been enlarged or in anywise made more attractive.

The working space for the staff is entirely inadequate to the very large amount of detail necessary to the cataloguing of 8,000 volumes a year, the use, repair, and accounting for a collection of 100,000 volumes, from which a circulation of 530,000 volumes is rolled up in a twelve-month. There are but eight desks and two places at the loan counter for the eighteen persons who do desk work; neither are there any lockers for personal effects, and only hooks in a dark semi-public hall-way 3x8 feet for the wraps of eighteen (18) assistants.

A small boy once asked a librarian for a book that would tell "how to get educated and how to stay so." This is exactly the function of a public library; not only to educate people, but to keep them educated by giving them constantly the very best. It should be not so much a storehouse of knowledge as a distributing center of knowledge, treating all persons and all questions alike. To do this we must have proper facilities.

The attention of the city government and the interest of the citizens is called to the duty of providing such material enlargement as shall enable the library to continue its great work and hold its leading place among American libraries.

Our thanks are due to the members of the staff for their splendid co-operation in one of the most successful years of the library's existence.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) THOMAS M. DURELL,
President.

Adopted by the board of trustees January 30, 1912.

Attest:

DREW B. HALL,
Secretary.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Central Building, Highland Avenue.

The Reference Room and the Circulating Department: Week days (excepting holidays), 9 A. M. to 9 P. M.
The Reading Room: Week days (excepting holidays), 9 A. M. to 9 P. M.; Sundays, 2 to 6 P. M.
The Children's Room: Week days for reading and circulation, 9 A. M. to 8 P. M.; Sundays (for reading only), 2 to 6 P. M.

WEST SOMERVILLE BRANCH.

College Avenue.

All departments: Week days, 1 to 9 P. M.; and on Saturdays, 9 A. M. to 1 P. M. in addition.

East Somerville Agency, corner Franklin and Pearl Streets.
Union Square Agency, 26 Union Square.
South Somerville Agency, 518 Somerville Avenue.

Librarian.

*Sam Walter Foss.
†Drew B. Hall.

Assistant Librarian.

Nellie M. Whipple.

Library Assistants.

Mabel E. Bunker, Reference and Art Librarian.
Bessie S. Cobb, West Somerville Branch.
Bessie L. Duddy, Stenographer.
Ruth S. Fales, West Somerville Branch.
Edith B. Hayes, Assistant Cataloguer.
Esther M. Mayhew, Cataloguer.
A. Myrtle Merrill, Binding and Circulating Departments.
Zoe E. Nelson, Circulating Department.
Myrtle Nicholson, Circulating and Cataloguing Departments.
Ethel M. Nute, West Somerville Branch.
A. Lisette Parker, Circulating Department.
Alice W. Sears, Librarian, West Somerville Branch.
Helen Spear, Circulating Department.
Anna L. Stone, Children's Librarian.
Ruby G. White, Agencies, and Circulating Department.
Mary S. Woodman, School Librarian.

Charles A. Southwick, Janitor, Central.
Thomas O'Day, Janitor, West Somerville Branch.
William Mullanny, Messenger.

Substitutes and Pages, on Special and Part Time.

Annie M. Currie.
Edgar L. Kaula.
Oscar Cederlund.
Dudley Holden.
Mary L. Foss.
Richard Barlow.
Thomas A. West.
Ronald Moore.

*Deceased, February 26, 1911.
†Qualified, May 5, 1911.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Trustees of the Somerville Public Library:—

I herewith submit the thirty-ninth annual report of the librarian for the calendar year 1911:—

Growth.

To Central 6,917 volumes were added, to West Somerville 1,763, a total of 8,680, of which 4,430 were new to the library and 4,250 were duplicates or replacements. During the last half of the year figures were kept showing the number of volumes added to each of the various classes, as has never been done before. While the results do not account for every volume added, they indicate that about forty per cent. of the purchases, or 3,500 volumes in round numbers, were fiction; of the 930 volumes added in October 366 were fiction. So great is the wear and tear of our circulation that 2,538 volumes were worn out and rejected from Central and 440 from West Somerville, a total of 2,978, which, subtracted from the additions as above, brings the net increase down to 5,702; which, added to the 98,164 in the library on January 1, 1911, make the gross total January 1, 1912, for the first time exceed the one hundred thousand mark in the sum of 103,866 volumes.

The processes incident to the invoicing, classifying, cataloguing, and preparing for circulation of so many thousands of additions, and the equally time-consuming processes of withdrawing worn-outs have required more painstaking and detail work than ever from the cataloguing force. Besides these regular duties, the special ones of preparing the catalogues of select fiction and of music have fallen to this department. The accommodations afforded by the catalogue room are totally inadequate to the yearly increasing requirements, which are accomplished only with grave risk of error and at the expenditure of an undue amount of labor and time.

Registration.

The number of readers' personal cards issued on the present registration during the last four years numbers just short of 30,000. Many of these cards, of course, are no longer in use; some of them are in the hands of other persons than those to whom they were issued; and the presence of thousands of unused readers' cards and records in the library's files add considerably to their bulk and to the difficulty of working them quickly and carefully. For these and certain minor reasons, it would be well during the coming year to begin re-registration on some plan by which cards would automatically

expire at the end of some chosen period, such as three years, and then be renewed.

During this year 3,917 new readers' cards were issued, 2,576 from Central and 1,341 from West Somerville, not including 415 special "vacation" cards.

Use of Books.

The circulation, or home use, from Central was 219,679, actual count; at West Somerville 127,160; at the East Somerville agency 12,403; at the Union-square agency 8,631, a total of actually counted use of 367,873. There were in schoolrooms, Sunday schools, fire stations, and other places of deposit from 1,300 to 9,000 volumes at any one time according to the season of the year. The use of these estimated on the "old" basis, of one circulation per volume every fortnight, amounted to 162,133 for the year. The total, therefore, of the actually-counted circulation plus this estimate was 530,006. On the same basis in 1910 the total was 489,363, with actually-counted circulation 352,272, and an estimate 137,091. I do not look for a large increase over the circulation of last year except at the new reading rooms in East Somerville and Union square. For these neighborhoods, which have hardly been reached heretofore, will doubtless develop a large "new business."

The reference work, on the other hand, has not shown the increase it ought to; in fact, there has been a steady decrease during the last dozen years. The accommodations for readers in the building have not during that time been increased, and are lamentably small for a population and circulation the size of Somerville's. The reference room is, by common consent, badly placed and arranged, and there seems to be no doubt that its service to the public would be much greater if it were situated on the ground floor, so that it would be more often noticed and more easily reached.

Methods of renewing books by mail, telephone, or in person when the first period of loan has expired have been introduced; also of reserving a volume which is desired, but seems always "out." Facility of distribution has also been promoted by permitting the drawing of any reasonable number of books of non-fiction, so that now a reader may draw on one card one novel, two unbound periodicals, and any number of non-fiction. Many readers avail themselves of these efforts to "get the right book to the right person," and gratefully express their appreciation.

Publications and Exhibitions.

Sixteen collections of photographs, or engravings, have been shown during the year. They exhibited, among other subjects: The Rise of Architecture in Italy, Transportation

without Steam or Electricity, Eighteenth Century Color Prints, James McNeill Whistler, The Yosemite Valley, Japanese Color Prints, Mount Shasta, American warships. Attention is again called to the deplorable lack of wall space suitable for these exhibitions. Very few visitors now see them in the small passageway on the second floor, where they must be hung.

The regular bulletin was issued monthly as heretofore.

A select and annotated list of 2,000 of the most used and worthy novels was issued in the fall, and there is now just ready a very carefully prepared seventy-page catalogue of music scores and books about music in both the central and branch collections. These contain several thousand scores of the greatest permanent and popular interest. During the compilation of the catalogue upwards of 800 volumes and scores recommended in the American Library Association's special list for library purchase were added to round out certain departments.

The local newspapers have been of great assistance in calling attention to the library in frequent notices of its aims and doings.

The Staff.

A well-considered "Scheme of Service," grading the various employees, has been adopted. It provides that the staff of the library "shall be appointed, promoted, and retained for educational and technical qualifications and efficiency," as determined by examinations suitable to the position in question, and by carefully kept experience ratings covering the work already done by the candidate. The salary of the lowest grade has been increased from $200 to $360, and the schedule made 40.5 hours per week. This time is regularly "divided into eleven periods, nine day and two evening, not exceeding two periods being required in one day," and is now so arranged that twenty-four hours, from noon of one day to noon of the next, are free during the less busy days in the middle of the week.

To his co-workers on the staff the librarian wishes to render most sincere thanks for their ready and loyal support in the beginnings of new undertakings.

To the trustees he is particularly grateful for their personal confidence, as well as for their official assistance and support in the accomplishments of the past six months, and in various projects under consideration, but not yet brought to the stage of completion.

Very respectfully,

DREW B. HALL,
Librarian.

December 30, 1911.

ACCESSIONS.

In Central January 1, 1911, including Agencies and Deposits		88,921	
Added, new titles	3,401		
Added, duplicates	3,516		
Total additions		6,917	
Worn out		2,538	
Net gain		4,379	
In Central January 1, 1912			93,300
In West Somerville Branch January 1, 1911		9,243	
Added, new titles	1,029		
Added, duplicates	734		
Total additions		1,763	
Worn out and withdrawn		440	
Net gain		1,323	
In West Somerville Branch January 1, 1912			10,566
Total volumes in Public Library			103,866

DEPOSITS.

Volumes on Deposit from Three Months to a Year.

In 191 School Rooms		7,432
In Sunday Schools, Clubs, etc.		1,606
Total out on deposit		9,038
Circulation, estimated on "old" basis that each volume is used once during each fortnight it is out on deposit		162,133

CIRCULATION.

Central	219,679
West Somerville Branch	127,160
East Somerville Agency	12,403
Union Square Agency	8,631
Actual counted circulation	367,873
Estimated circulation of Deposits as above	162,133
Total Volumes circulated for home use	530,006

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

CENTRAL.

Including Agencies, Deposits, and Cataloguing, etc., for Branches.

RECEIPTS.

City Appropriation	$17,000 00	
Dog Tax	3,949 82	
Books lost and paid for	7 05	
Fines	895 15	
Total	$21,852 02	

EXPENDITURES.

Books	$6,216 49	
Music	726 68	
Periodicals	668 37	
Binding	2,786 73	
Printing	729 20	
Stationery and Supplies	329 95	
Fittings	409 87	
Salaries	9,281 41	
Agencies	352 68	
Express	203 95	
Postage and Telephone	97 23	
Sundries	49 46	
		$21,852 02

WEST SOMERVILLE BRANCH.

RECEIPTS.

City Appropriation	$5,000 00	
Fines	501 53	
Total	$5,501 53	

EXPENDITURES.

Books	$2,091 44	
Music	214 74	
Periodicals	334 43	
Binding	683 38	
Printing	6 00	
Stationery and Supplies	89 43	
Fittings	5 63	
Salaries	2,008 26	
Express	35 37	
Postage and Telephone	26 82	
Sundries	6 03	
		5,501 53

EAST SOMERVILLE READING ROOM.

RECEIPTS.

City Appropriation	$195 35	

EXPENDITURES.

Books	$90 65	
Periodicals	104 70	
		195 35
Amount carried forward		$27,548 90

Amount brought forward		$27,548 90

UNION SQUARE READING ROOM.

RECEIPTS.

City Appropriation	$184 45	

EXPENDITURES.

Books	$184 45	
		184 45
Isaac Pitman Art, Books and Pictures		57 37
Total expended under the Trustees		$27,790 72
On account of building maintenance, the Commissioner of Public Buildings, received:—		
For Central	$3,750 00	
For West Somerville Branch . . .	1,750 00	
		5,500 00
Total operating expenses		$33,290 72



